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CONFIDENTIAL.

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PART II.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

AFFAIRS OF KOWEIT.

1900

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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. February 1901.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Affairs at Koweit.

Part II.

No. 1.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at Foreign Office, January 1, 1900.)

(No. 53. Confidential.)

Bussorah, November 30, 1899.

Sir,

AS I had the honour to inform your Excellency, telegraphically, on the 27th instant, the Vali of Bussorah recently received instructions by telegraph from the Sultan to use every endeavour to arrest certain emissaries whom the independent Emir, or Sheikh, of Nejd in Arabia has sent, or is about to send, to the Khedive of Egypt. The Sultan's telegram was silent regarding the object of these persons' mission, only mentioning that they were charged with valuable presents and "dangerous advice;" but my informant (who saw the decypher of the telegram) had a vague impression that Mecca was in some way concerned. They are expected to pass through Koweit or Zobeir, and the Sheikh (Kaimakam) of the former place, as well as the Mudir of Zobeir, has been instructed by the Vali to be on the look-out for them. Similar orders have been given to other Turkish officials through whose districts they might possibly pass.

Hamdi Pasha has seized this opportunity for pressing for the prolongation of the telegraph line from Fao to Katif, and the Sultan at once issued an Irادé for its construction. This line would presumably pass through Koweit, and it remains to be seen what Sheikh Mubarek will say to the installation of a Turkish telegraph office and operators in his town if the project is executed.

A further instance of the uneasy interest which the Arab coast of the Persian Gulf is now arousing in Turkish circles is furnished by the recent dismissal of Suleiman Effendi, assistant Kaimakam of Katr, whose position was practically that of "Resident," Sheikh Jasim-el-Thani being nominally Kaimakam as Mubarek is at Koweit. Suleiman was suspected of being won over to the side of Jasim, and of neglecting to furnish full and regular reports in consequence. Habib Effendi has been appointed in his place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 2.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 5.)

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, January 5, 1900.

HER Majesty's Consul at Bussorah telegraphs to-day as follows:—

"I hear that the Commission in connection with the German scheme for a railway to Bagdad, which arrived here to-day, intends to try for a concession of a port at Koweit.

"The Commission will leave Bussorah for Koweit in a few days with this view."

No. 3.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 7.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 7, 1900.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, dated yesterday:—

"I learn from the German Consul-General that a concession for a terminus on the harbour of Koweit will be sought by the promoters of the railway scheme, for he says that unless an outlet on the sea can be found there is no chance of the line paying.

"The Germans will negotiate directly with the Sultan without regard to the Sheikh of Koweit, who will not be asked to grant a concession of land."

(Sent to India.)

No. 4.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 15.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January 15, 1900.*

I LEARN by telegraph from Her Majesty's Consul at Bussorah that the German Commission in connection with the Bagdad Railway left that place for Koweit on the 13th instant.

Mr. Wratislaw has informed the Indian Government.

No. 5.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 16.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegrams respecting Koweit.

India Office, January 16, 1900.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) *January 7, 1900.*

WRATISLAW telegraphs that German Railway Commission has arrived at Bussorah, and will leave in a few days for Koweit, where they propose to select site for railway terminus, conducting negotiations not with Sheikh but with Sultan of Turkey. Such a proceeding would be inconsistent with our claim as regards Koweit, and would certainly produce local trouble between Sheikh and ourselves, and possibly subsequent friction with Germany. Would it not be desirable to inform Germany of our relations with Koweit? Any idea of prolonging German Railway thither should only be carried out with our consent, and as part of specific understanding. An arrangement with Turkey over our heads would stultify recent Koweit Agreement concluded by order of Her Majesty's Government, and would greatly weaken our position in Gulf.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *India Office, January 11, 1900.*

YOUR telegram of the 7th January: Koweit.

Lord Salisbury considers moment inopportune for proposed communication to German Government. He prefers to wait until Germans show immediate intention of addressing Turks, when we can either renew previous warning given to Porte or come to terms with Germany as to terminus of railway.

Inclosure 3 in No. 5.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) *January 11, 1900.*

MEADE telegraphs that he fears complications upon approaching visit of German Consul-General and Railway Commission with Turkish escort to Koweit, since Sheikh may either refuse them entry, or may be bought over to give railway terminus in spite of recent agreement. He therefore proposes to go to Koweit himself at same time as Germans. I have answered that this is not necessary, and that there is no sufficient reason for the prohibition of German visit by Sheikh, but that latter should be instructed to accept no proposal whatsoever without reference to the Government of India, and to act upon its advice.

Inclosure 4 in No. 5.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *India Office, January 13, 1900.*

YOURS, 11th: Koweit.

Her Majesty's Government approve the instructions given by you to Meade.

No. 6.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 18.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 18th January, regarding Koweit.

India Office, January 18, 1900.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) *January 18, 1900.*

KOWEIT. Captain Denison of "Melpomene," just returned from Koweit, reports German intention to acquire Kathama Bay at western end of Koweit Harbour for railway terminus without consultation with Sheikh. Meade fears some act on the part of Turks and Germans combined, which may afterwards be claimed as proof of Turkish authority or possession over Koweit. I have acquainted him with views of Her Majesty's Government, as stated in your telegram of 11th January, but it appears to me very likely that our hands may soon be forced by some such action as he fears.

No. 7.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 1. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January* 19, 1900.

KOWEIT:

Your Excellency's telegram No. 2 of the 7th instant.

A telegram has been received from the Viceroy of India to the effect that the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Melpomene," who has just returned from Koweit, reports that the Germans intend to acquire Kathama Bay, without consulting the Sheikh of Koweit, as a terminus for their railway. Kathama Bay is at the western end of Koweit harbour.

Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire is apprehensive lest the Turks and Germans combined may take some action, on the strength of which Turkish authority over Koweit may afterwards be claimed to exist.

Under these circumstances the question arises whether it would be advisable that the Porte should be warned again not to take any decision without consulting Her Majesty's Government, or that you should speak to your German colleague confidentially on the subject of our relations with Koweit.

I should be glad to have your Excellency's opinion on these points.

No. 8

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 24. Secret.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 22, 1900.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 1, Secret, of the 19th January, I have the honour to report as follows:—

I assume it is not in our interest to hasten any development of the Koweit question, and we have, moreover, to bear in mind that any advance of England in the Persian Gulf at this moment may lead Russia to take some counter action on the plea of compensation.

I am therefore at present not in favour of giving any fresh warning to the Porte. They know that we are in close relations with Koweit, and probably suspect that these are of a more intimate kind than we have yet admitted.

There is also, I think, objection to my speaking to my German colleague. He would not be satisfied with a mere hint, and I should have to give him definite information, which, when reported to Berlin, might possibly lead the German Government to press the question to an issue in conjunction with Turkey while we are occupied in South Africa.

This surmise may be wrong, but there would be at least a risk of the question being forced upon us prematurely, and, in view of the fact that the German Railway Commission is not expected to return and present its report till the end of March, it seems worth while to avoid raising it at present if we can.

It occurs to me that I might ask Sir E. Law, who is very intimate with Dr. Siemens, and in correspondence with him, to remark in a private letter that he has heard that the Railway Commission is proposing to acquire a port at Koweit, and that he hopes that this will not be unduly pressed. He could go on to say that Dr. Siemens is probably aware that the relations between the British Government and the Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit are specially intimate, and that any arrangement which would leave out of consideration these relations might result in delaying the understanding which he and Dr. Siemens desire in regard to the latter's great railway enterprise.

Sir E. Law thinks that Dr. Siemens would grasp the situation, and be anxious to avoid discouraging British capitalists by any action which would have an unfavourable effect on the London market. It is possible, of course, that Dr. Siemens will inform his Government of Sir E. Law's remarks, but I see no harm in this.

Before the return of the Commission I could, if your Lordship thinks it advisable, give a hint to the same effect to the German Ambassador, adding that I presume it

is in our mutual interests that nothing should interfere to hinder the participation of British capitalists with those of Germany in the construction of the railway.

I should be glad to know by telegraph whether your Lordship approves the course suggested, as Sir E. Law will be leaving Constantinople shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 9.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January* 26, 1899.

KOWEIT.

I have received your despatch No. 24 of the 22nd instant, giving your views as to the expediency of causing an intimation to be conveyed to the Porte and the German Government of the relations between Her Majesty's Government and the Sheikh of Koweit.

I approve the course of procedure suggested by your Excellency in regard to this question.

No. 10.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 29.)

(No. 27. Secret.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 23, 1900.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 1, Secret, of the 19th instant, my telegram No. 5 of the 20th instant, and my despatch No. 24, Secret, of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, in answer to my inquiry as to the probable attitude of the Sheikh of Koweit in respect to the German demand for the concession of a port as a railway terminus, Mr. Consul Wratislaw has replied as follows:—

"The Sheikh would, I think, object on principle to a foreign railway to Koweit as likely to lead to the eventual suppression of his semi-independent position. He is, however, unscrupulous and avaricious, and a heavy pecuniary inducement might be irresistible to him.

"Now that the Vali is dismissed his relations with the Turkish Government are likely to be more friendly. Indeed, he has undertaken that this shall be the case, and an assurance has been given the Sultan that he will visit Bussorah. We daily expect the return of the Germans here."

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 11.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 29.)

(No. 30. Secret.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 24, 1900.

SINCE writing my despatch No. 27, Secret, of yesterday's date, I have received a further telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Bussorah to the effect that the Germans have reported that they have found an excellent site for the railway terminus on Koweit harbour.

Mr. Wratislaw adds that they have now left Zobeir direct for Damascus without touching at Bussorah. He believes that they did not visit the Sheikh of Koweit, but is not sure of this.

Mr. Wratislaw has reported the above by telegraph to the Viceroy of India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 12.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 81. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 26, 1900.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, Commercial, of the 24th instant, I have the honour to report that I have just received a telegram from Mr. Wratislaw (which he has also sent to the Viceroy of India), of which the following is a paraphrase:—

"The Germans have written that they will certainly take their line to Koweit, where they have been well received by the Sheikh. Before proceeding to Damascus they intend to survey the route along the right bank of the Euphrates, and perhaps to visit Bagdad."

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 13.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received February 12.)

(Secret.)

Sir, *Admiralty, February 8, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter, dated the 17th ultimo, from the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies station and of its inclosure, relative to the proceedings of certain Germans at Kathama Bay terminus railway, without the permission of the Sheikh of Koweit.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

Rear-Admiral Bosanquet to Admiralty.

(Secret.)

Sir, *"Eclipse," at Calcutta, January 17, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the decypher of a telegram received by me yesterday from Captain Denison, Her Majesty's ship "Melpomene," Senior Naval Officer in the Persian Gulf, observing that I have furnished the Government of India with a copy of this message.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DAY H. BOSANQUET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Captain Denison to Rear-Admiral Bosanquet.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *"Melpomene," at Bushire, January 16, 1900.*

ARRIVED yesterday. Letter gone by mail. Interview with Sheikh Koweit satisfactory. Germans have gone to secure Kathama Bay terminus railway, which they intend to acquire direction of from Turks, ignoring Sheikh. I consider Kathama Bay, in every respect, best harbour in Persian Gulf, and think that it should not be lost to England, as it can be made a most important naval and military station. I remain here at present.

No. 14.

Captain Denison to Admiral Douglas.—(Communicated by Admiralty, February 14.)

Dear Admiral Douglas, *"Melpomene," at Persian Gulf, January 14, 1900.*

WE are just returning to Bushire from a visit to Koweit. . . . . A telegram mentioned that the German Railway Commission and surveyors had reached Busrah from Bagdad, and that they were going overland to Koweit. I talked it over with Colonel Meade, and he wrote to the Consuls at both those places: from Bagdad he heard that the German Consul-General for that place was with the party, and that he stated he had Turkish authority to survey for the railway as far as Busrah, and that he was going on to Koweit to arrange with the Sheikh for a terminus for the line at Koweit. Mr. Wratislaw (the Consul) wrote from Busrah saying that the German Consul-General stated he had Turkish authority to go to Koweit to fix the site of the railway terminus, and that he didn't see "where the Sheikh came in," two quite different statements.

Colonel Meade immediately communicated with the Viceroy and got permission for me to visit the Sheikh and gave me a message for him. I arrived at Koweit yesterday morning, and landed at once with Mr. Gaskin (British Vice-Consul at Bushire) to act as interpreter. . . . .

The Sheikh was very friendly, and is ready to do everything the Government wishes. He showed and gave me a copy of a letter from the Turkish Commander-in-chief at Bagdad, ordering him to further the wishes of the German Company, &c., and he told me the railway Company want to acquire—by purchase or by paying him an annual subsidy to protect the line—3 or 4 miles of the shore at the west end of the bay (Kathima Bay). The west end of the bay is the most suitable place for a railway terminus, as there are 5 fathoms of water close to the shore, and that is the least depth of water in that part of the harbour.

When this line is built a new town will spring up round the terminus, and it will be a very important place. I think the Company should be allowed half-a-mile of foreshore, or a mile at most, and in the event of our ever assuming a Protectorate over Koweit, it would be advisable to secure a portion of the harbour and foreshore for military and naval purposes, and sufficient land for a Residency, &c., and that the Harbour-master should be an Englishman, &c. In fact, this valuable port should be secured to England and regulated by English officials without delay; otherwise it will be much more difficult in a few years' time to get any effective control of the place. After my interview with Sheikh Mubarek he sent some of his officials to show me over the town, and I was struck with the orderly behaviour of the people, the cleanliness of the streets, and the brisk trade that was going on; it is a very different place to Bushire.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DENISON.

No. 15.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 27.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in Government of India Foreign Secretary's letter, dated the 8th February, respecting the proceedings of the German Railway Commission at Koweit.

India Office, February 26, 1900.

Inclosure 1 in No 15.

Major Melvill to Government of India.

Bagdad, December 18, 1899.

(Confidential.)

WITH reference to your Memorandum, dated the 6th November, 1899, forwarding a copy of a despatch, dated the 14th September, 1899, from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin to the Marquess of Salisbury, I have the honour to

report that the members of the German Commission charged with the preliminary investigations for the projected extension of the Anatolian Railway to Bagdad arrived here on the 12th instant. The next day Herr Stemrich, with the German Consul, called on me. Herr Stemrich inquired what number of pilgrims come here from India viâ Bussorah, and I informed him that pilgrimage from India had been stopped by the Turkish authorities since the appearance of plague in India, but that he might possibly be able to obtain from Bombay the figures for years prior to the issue of the prohibition.

2. I understand that the members of the Commission leave Bagdad in a few days for Bussorah, whence they will travel to Europe viâ the Euphrates Valley.

Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

Major Melvill to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Bagdad, December* 28, 1899.

IN continuation of my letter, dated the 18th instant, I have the honour to report that I hear that the members of the German Commission charged with the preliminary investigations for the projected extension of the Anatolian Railway to Bagdad leave by river steamer for Bussorah on the 31st instant.

2. I understand that Herr Stemrich does not consider that the financial prospects of the projected railway would be good. I hear also that Herr von Kapp has stated that the accomplishment of the scheme depends on the acquisition of a port in the Persian Gulf, viz., Koweit, but that a concession for the construction of the railway has already been actually granted. I am informed that one of the principal objects of the Commission in going to Bussorah is to ascertain whether the Sheikh of Koweit will be disposed to favour the scheme, and on what terms.

3. I have reported to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople what I have heard regarding this matter, and I am informing Her Majesty's Consul at Bussorah and the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Inclosure 3 in No. 15.

Lieutenant-Colonel Meade to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Bushire, January* 23, 1900.

KOWEIT: your telegram of the 18th January.

I have not sent man-of-war again, but propose, with approval of the Government of India, sending Gaskin in "Lawrence" to ascertain what is being done. "Lawrence" goes to Shat-el-Arab shortly, and a visit to Koweit need not excite remarks. I will take this opportunity to represent that the establishment of German influence at Koweit will certainly seriously affect our position throughout the Persian Gulf, and I venture to recommend our own preponderating influence at the place should be maintained to the exclusion of any other. "Lawrence" should, I think, also visit Kathama Bay.

Inclosure 4 in No. 15.

Consul Wratislaw to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Bussorah, January* 23, 1900.

THE Germans left Zebeir to-day direct for Damascus without touching at Bussorah. They have written that they found an excellent site on Koweit Harbour. I am not sure, but I think that they did not visit Sheikh. Embassy informed.

Inclosure 5 in No. 15.

Lieutenant-Colonel Meade to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Bushire, January* 25, 1900.

MY telegram of the 23rd January. "Lawrence" wishes to start this evening. Can she visit Koweit as I proposed?

Inclosure 6 in No. 15.

Consul Wratislaw to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Bussorah, January* 25, 1900.

LETTER received from the Germans state that they were well received by the Sheikh, and will certainly take their line there.

They will now survey the route along the right bank of the Euphrates and perhaps visit Bagdad again before finally proceeding to Damascus. Constantinople informed.

Inclosure 7 in No. 15.

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Meade.

(Telegraphic.) *Calcutta, January* 26, 1900.

YOUR telegrams, 23rd and 25th January. Gaskin may visit Koweit in "Lawrence" as proposed, and should ascertain what occurred. Government of India attach due importance to your views, and have reason to believe that British Ambassador at Constantinople is being consulted on the subject.

Inclosure 8 in No. 15.

Lieutenant-Colonel Meade to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Bushire, January* 15, 1900.

IN continuation of my telegram of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report that Her Majesty's ship "Melpomene" returned this morning from Koweit, and I have just received a letter of to-day's date from Captain J. Denison, R.N., Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf Division, a copy of which, with inclosures, is forwarded herewith for the early information of the Government of India.*

2. A copy of the tracing of the west end of Kathama Bay, referred to in paragraph 5 of Captain Denison's letter, will follow later on, as it cannot be prepared in time to go by the mail steamer which leaves to-day.

3. I heard yesterday, by telegram, from Mr. Wratislaw, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, to the effect that the German Railway Mission had started for Koweit, and I will inquire from you, by telegram, if, in view of this, the Government of India wish the Senior Naval Officer to return to that place.

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* Inclosure 2 in No. 16.

Inclosure 9 in No. 15.

Consul Wratislaw to Government of India.

Bussorah, January 13, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegram to his Lordship the Viceroy of the 6th instant, concerning the arrival at Bussorah of the German Railway Commission, and to inclose a copy of a Report which I have addressed on this subject to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

Inclosure 10 in No. 15.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. OConor.

(Secret.) *Bussorah, January* 13, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegrams to your Excellency Nos. 11 and 12 of the 5th and 6th instant, reporting the arrival at Bussorah of the German Commission which is engaged on a preliminary survey of the proposed railway line from Constantinople to Bussorah through Bagdad. The principal members of the Commission are Herr Stemrich, German Consul-General at Constantinople, and Herr von Kapp, Chief Engineer of the Anatolian Railway. I had several conversations with the former gentleman, and gathered from him that the result of their journey up to now has been far from encouraging. The line, in his opinion, could not pay, certainly not for many years, and it was in any case essential that it should have a terminus on the Persian Gulf, for which they proposed to select a site on Koweit Harbour.

Herr Stemrich spoke quite openly to me on this subject, and seemed to have no idea that Great Britain might raise any objection. I hinted that the Sheikh of Koweit might possibly have a word to say in the matter, but Herr Stemrich replied that the Sheikh's feelings were a matter of indifference to the Company, which could come to an agreement with the Sultan and leave His Imperial Majesty to take measures to enforce it locally and bring his vassal to reason. They did not even propose to visit Mubarak, but should, if possible, avoid the town of Koweit altogether, as, from a study of the chart, the spot which seemed most suitable for their purpose was at the end of the harbour furthest from the sea and some miles off Koweit.

I am of opinion, however, that in this matter Herr Stemrich's attitude was more or less affected. In the course of a subsequent conversation, I remarked that I thought that the personal safety of the members of the Commission would be more assured had they previously written to the Sheikh announcing their intention of visiting his territory; and the Consul-General replied that he thought so too, but that he was sure that Mubarak would oppose the railway scheme and would as likely as not forbid their visit if previously advised of it, in which case they would be placed in a very awkward position. I further learn that they applied to the Vali, and also to Mohsin Pasha who commands the troops here, for a letter of introduction to the Sheikh. Both declined to give it, Hamdi Pasha because he had applied for instructions to Constantinople and had received none, and Mohsin Pasha because he could take no such step without orders from his superior officer, the Mushir at Bagdad. A similar application to the Nakib of Bussorah, to whom they had a letter from Abdul Khuda of Constantinople, was also ineffectual.

I gathered that the line from Koweit to Bagdad would not touch at Bussorah, but would pass to the south-west of this town through Zobeir to Suk-el-Shuyouk. It is hoped that then Koweit would quite cut out Bussorah as a port, on account of its obviating the delay and expense incurred by vessels crossing the bar of the Shat-el-Arab.

Herr Stemrich did not inform me in so many words that a concession had actually been granted to the German Company as far as Koweit, but I hear that the German Consul at Bagdad (whose district includes this vilayet) stated this to be the case in a letter to the Vali introducing the Commission. I also hear that Messrs. von Kapp and Stemrich declared that as the result of their investigations along the proposed route they could only reckon on a revenue of 3,000 fr. per kilom., whereas they wanted 15,000; and that the line could not be made unless the Porte undertook to make up the latter amount, and gave satisfactory guarantees of its ability to do so.

The Commission left to-day for Koweit. The Vali gave them an escort as far as Zobeir only. His Excellency has been much exercised in mind during their visit to Bussorah, and, in the absence of instructions from Constantinople, has maintained an attitude of masterly inactivity. I have avoided meeting him, fearing embarrassing questions, but he has expressed his anxiety to my Dragoman, whom he also asked to tell him, in strict confidence, whether it was really true, as reported, that Great Britain had a secret Agreement with the Sheikh of Koweit. The Dragoman, who knows nothing about the matter, replied that this was another of the calumnies which the envious are ever inventing to discredit Her Majesty's Government.

No. 16.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received February 27.)

(Secret.)

Sir, *Admiralty, February* 23, 1900.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter dated 15th ultimo from the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Melpomene," and of its inclosures, relative to his visit to Koweit and the state of affairs there.

A similar letter has been addressed to the India Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 16.

Captain Denison to Rear-Admiral Bosanquet.

Sir, *"Melpomene," at Bushire, January* 15, 1900.

IN continuation of my letter of the 31st December, I have the honour to report that Her Majesty's ship "Sphinx" has remained on the southern part of the Gulf since that date.

2. Her Majesty's ship "Pigeon" left Jask on the 29th December for Arab and Persian Ports and Bushire (I inclose her proceedings) and arrived here on the 8th January, and left the same evening for the Shat-el-Arab.

Commander Moubray reported that the political situation was unchanged since the visit of the Political Resident in Royal Imperial Majesty's ship "Lawrence" in November last, but that the Agent at Sharjah stated that a bad epidemic of plague and cholera existed at nearly every village along the Oman coast, especially at Ajman and Abu Shabi.

3. There appeared early this month in the telegrams (Government) a statement to the effect that the Germans were going to continue their survey for a railway from Bussorah to Koweit, making Koweit the terminus.

The Political Resident, Lieutenant-Colonel Meade, C.I.E., then ascertained from the Consul at Bussorah that this Company did not recognize the Sheikh at Koweit, which fact I telegraphed to you. The Resident also heard from the Consul-General at Bagdad that the Company were going to deal directly with the Sheikh of Koweit, which is altogether the reverse to what they told the Consul at Bussorah.

The Resident then asked me if I would go to Koweit, give the Sheikh a letter (copy inclosed), and dictate the following message to him:—

"Sheikh to be informed that the Government have heard that a German Railway Company wish to make Koweit the terminus of a railway which will pass through Bagdad and Bussorah; that the Sheikh if he receives any overtures from the Company for land on which to erect the terminus or other buildings at Koweit, must inform me fully of the proposals before coming to any sort of arrangement whatever, and must abide by the decision of the Government of India in the matter."

Accordingly after having taken Mr. J. C. Gaskin, Vice-Consul on board to interpret, I left Bushire at 6 P.M. on the 12th, and arrived at Koweit at noon on the 13th; I interviewed the Sheikh Mubarak-al-Sabah the same afternoon, and left Koweit at 7 A.M. on the 14th for Bushire, arriving here at 10 A.M. to-day, having

carried out target practice off Karig Island. I inclose a copy of the letter I wrote to the Resident regarding Koweit, which contains full particulars of my interview with the Sheikh of Koweit.

4. The health of the ship's company continues very good.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN DENISON,

Captain and Senior Officer, Persian Gulf.

Inclosure 2 in No. 16.

Captain Denison to Lieutenant-Colonel Meade.

Sir, "*Melpomene*," *at Bushire, January* 15, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, after taking the Vice-Consul Mr. J. C. Gaskin on board, I left Bushire at 6 P.M. on the 12th instant, and arrived off Koweit at noon on the 13th, anchoring about 2¾ miles from the shore.

2. I interviewed the Sheikh Mubarak-al-Subah at his house from 2 P.M. till 3.30 P.M. the same afternoon, and gave him your letter and message. He was most friendly, and readily agreed not to take any steps in the matter without fully acquainting you of the German Railway Company's proposals, and said that he would follow the advice of the Government in everything.

3. He stated that he had received a letter from the Turkish Commander-in-chief at Bagdad, asking him to befriend the Mission and do anything in his power to further their interests, and the Sheikh said that he was about to write [illegible] subject when Her Majesty's ship "Melpomene" arrived.

4. He appeared most anxious to be sure of British support, [illegible] could not resist the Turks for any length of time, and he considered British support much more valuable than that of any other Power, he being much impressed with the prosperity of Bahrein since its protection by the British.

He said that he had been informed privately of the railway Company's intent[illegible] and their line to Koweit, and that they were desirous of acquiring [illegible] of his land along the west end of Kathama Bay, either purchasing [illegible] or paying him a certain sum per annum and a further amount to protect the line [illegible] his territory. I consider this is the best part of the harbour, and certainly the most suitable for a railway terminus. A new town would quickly spring up, and there is sufficient water to enable large ships to get close inshore.

5. In view of a Protectorate being established and of our using it as a naval station, a portion of this part of the harbour (west end of Kathama Bay, tracing not sent) should be retained, and some of the foreshore for Government bu[illegible]

6. If a concession be granted to the railway Company, I would sugg[illegible] line be kept some distance inland and not allowed to run along the shore, as, in the event of a town springing up, the line would be between the sea and the town.

7. After my interview with Sheikh Mubarak-al-Subah, I was shown over the town by some of his officials, and was greatly struck by the orderly behaviour of the people, the cleanliness of the town itself, and the brisk trade that appeared to be carried on.

8. I consider a few men-of-war could easily protect the place from an attack by [illegible] able force of troops would be necessary to defend the territory [illegible] rmined attack by the Turks in force, for although the people are a warlike [illegible] one cannot be sure to what extent they are to be relied upon against [illegible] troops.

9. I inclose a letter which Sheikh Mubarak-al-Subah asked me to deliver to you. This letter is a reply to yours.

10. I am much indebted to Mr. J. C. Gaskin, Vice-Consul, for the valuable assistance he rendered during my interview with Sheikh Mubarak-al-Subah, both by his advice and his services as an interpreter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN DENISON,

Captain and Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf.

Inclosure 3 in No. 16.

Lieutenant-Colonel Meade to Sheikh Mubarak-al-Subah, Chief of Koweit.

(Translation from Arabic.) *Bushire, January* 12, 1900.

I HAVE much pleasure in introducing to you Captain Denison, Commander of Her Majesty's [illegible] means of making your acquaintance, and I hope you will receive him with the [illegible] due to his high rank.

Captain Denison will repeat to you certain communications which I have been instructed by the British Government to convey to you, and I trust, therefore, you will give due regard and listen to all he may tell you.

(Signed) J. M. MEADE,

Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

Inclosure 4 in No. 16.

Sheikh Mubarak-al-Subah, Chief of Koweit, to Lieutenant-Colonel Meade.

(Translation from Arabic.) *January* 13, 1900.

IN the most blessed hour I received your letter dated the 12th January.

The Senior Naval Officer and Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Melpomene" has honoured me, and I am much pleased at having made his acquaintance.

He repeated to me the communications to which you referred, and, under every [illegible] I will pay attention to what he communicated by your directions. [illegible] I had before this intended to send a copy thereof, and now the opportunity offers itself, please God it will reach you.

May you continue in peace and under the protection of [illegible]

(Signed) MUBARAK-AL-SUBAH.

[illegible] in No. 16.

The Commander-in-chief, Turkish Forces, Bagdad, to Mubarak-al-Subah, Chief of Koweit.

(Translation from Arabic.) [*Undated.*]

THE Consul-General for the German Empire, Mr. [illegible], has come here for the purpose of surveying a railway route, and has now left for your parts in connection with his office. You are to act respectfully towards him, so as to deserve his praise.

[illegible] Mushir of the 6th Army Corps.

Inclosure 6 in No. [illegible]

[illegible]

Sir, [illegible]

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Secret [illegible] the 17th [illegible] to thank you for the information contained in [illegible] addressing the Government of Turkey or of Germany upon the subject is in too [illegible] made acquainted with the course [illegible]

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. J. CUNNINGHAM,

Secretary to the Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, March 2, 1900.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords [illegible] the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the info[illegible] of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extracts from a [illegible] dated the 27th January, from the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Melpomene," relative to the state of affairs at Koweit.

A similar communication has been addressed to the India Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) [illegible]

Inclosure in No. 17.

Captain Denison to Rear-Admiral Bosanquet.

(Secret.)

(Extract.) *January 27, 1900.*

THE Resident here informs me that the Government of India do not intend taking any further action at present at Koweit, preferring to wait till they see what the Germans do there.

It is my opinion that the German Government intend to secure the [illegible] the Sheikh for themselves, as the presence of the German Consul [illegible] Constantinople with the Railway Commission, points to greater things than a [illegible] railway terminus.

It is possible that the Sheikh of Koweit would throw us over at any moment, if [illegible] a sufficient bribe would tempt him to do so.

It would be a blow to our prestige in the Gulf, and certainly a great loss of the [illegible]

No. 18.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

No. 61. (Secret.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 27, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatches No. 30, Secret, and No. 31, Confidential, of the [illegible] day, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of an interesting despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Bussorah reporting the arrival at that place of the German Bagdad Railway Commission, and their subsequent departure for Koweit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Vice-Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 2. Secret.)

Sir, *Bussorah, January 13, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegrams to your Excellency Nos. 11 and 12 of the 5th and 6th instant reporting the arrival at Bussorah of the German Commission, which is engaged on a preliminary survey of the proposed railway line from Constanti-[illegible] Bagdad. The principal members of the Commission are [illegible] German Consul-General at Constantinople, and Herr von Kapp, Chief [illegible]neer of the Anatolian Railway.

I had several conversations with the former gentleman, and gathered from him that the result of their journey up to now has been far from encouraging. The line, in his opinion, could not pay, certainly not for many years, and it was in any case [illegible]tial that it should have a terminus on the Persian Gulf, for which they proposed to select a site on Koweit Harbour.

Herr Stemrich spoke quite openly to me on this subject, and seemed to have no [illegible] Great Britain could raise any objection. I hinted that the Sheikh of Koweit [illegible] have a word to say in the matter, but Herr Stemrich replied that the Sheikh's feelings were a matter of indifference to the Company, which could come to an agreement with the Sultan and leave His Imperial Majesty to take measures to enforce it locally and bring his vassal to reason. They did not even propose to visit Mubarek, but should, if possible, avoid the town of Koweit altogether, as, from a [illegible] chart, the spot which seemed most suitable for their purpose was at the [illegible] farthest from the sea, and some miles off Koweit.

[illegible], that Herr Stemrich's attitude in the matter was more or [illegible]

[illegible] of a subsequent conversation, I remarked that I thought that the personal safety of the members of the Commission would be more assured had they previously written to the Sheikh announcing their intention of visiting his territory, and the Consul-General replied that he thought so too, but that he was sure that Mubarek would oppose the railway scheme, and would, as likely as not, forbid their visit if previously advised of it, in which case they would be placed in a very awkward [illegible]

[illegible] that they applied to the Vali, and also to Mohsin Pasha, who [illegible] letter of introduction to the Sheikh. Both declined [illegible] and applied for instructions to Constantinople [illegible] ved none, and Mohsin Pasha because he could take no such step with[illegible] his superior officer, the Mushir of Bagdad. A similar application to the [illegible] Bussorah, to whom they had a letter from Abou Khuda, of Constantinople, [illegible] too ineffectual.

[illegible] that the line from Koweit to Bagdad would not touch at Bussorah, but [illegible] near to the south-west of this town to Suk-el-Shuyuk. It is hoped that Koweit would then quite cut out Bussorah as a port, on account of its obviating the delay and expense incurred by vessels crossing the bar of the Shat-el-Arab.

Herr Stemrich did not inform me in so many words that a Concession had actually been granted to the German Company as far as Koweit, but I hear that the German Consul at Bagdad (whose district includes this vilayet) stated this to be the case, in a letter to the Vali introducing the Commission. I also hear that Messrs. von Kapp and Stemrich declared that as the result of their investigation along the proposed route they [illegible]d only reckon on a revenue of 3,000 fr. per kilometre, whereas they wanted 15,000 fr., and that the line could not be made unless the Porte undertook to make up the latter [illegible]ount, and gave satisfactory guarantees of its ability to do so.

The Commission left to-day for Koweit. The Vali gave them an escort as far as [illegible]. His Excellency has been much exercised in mind during their visit to [illegible], and in the absence of instructions from Constantinople has maintained an attitude of masterly inactivity.

I have avoided meeting him, fearing embarrassing questions, but he has [illegible]ssed his anxiety to my Dragoman, whom he also asked to tell him, in strict confidence, whether it was really true, as reported, that Great Britain had a Secret Agreement with the Sheikh of Koweit. The Dragoman, who knows nothing about the matter, replied that this was another of the calumnies which the envious are ever inventing to discredit Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. [illegible]

Sir N. O'C[illegible] 1901

(No. 20. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March* 10, 1900

I LEARN by a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Basra that the [illegible] gun-boat is to sail in a few days, and will most likely go to Koweit. The British war-ship being still at Basra, Mr. Wratislaw s[illegible] desirable, leave twenty-four hours before the Russian gun-boat and [illegible]

I have informed Mr. Wratislaw that your Lordship will send him inst[illegible] If it is decided to send Her Majesty's ship, she should leave as soon as possi[illegible]

No. [illegible]

Foreign Office to Admi[illegible]

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1900

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you a telegram fr[illegible] Her M[illegible]ty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* report[illegible] that, according to a tel[illegible] r[illegible]ved from Her M[illegible]jesty's Consul [illegible] the latter place is leaving in a few days, and [illegible]

With regard to the question whether the British [illegible] Salisbury would suggest that the Lords [illegible]

[illegible] SANDERSON

No. [illegible]

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March [illegible])

(No. [illegible])
M[illegible] *Constantinople, March* 13, 1900

[illegible] with reference to my telegram No. 5 of the 20th January, and to my despatches No[illegible] [illegible]d 32 of the 24th and 27th of the same month, I have the honour to transmit to [illegible] Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her M[illegible] Consul at Bussorah, rela[illegible]ng the events w[illegible]ch l[illegible]d to the dismissal of Hamdi Pasha and the appointment of Mohsin Pasha as Vali in his stead.

I [illegible]

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

Inclosure in No. 23.

Vice-Consul Beaumont to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. [illegible])
Sir, *January* 24, 190[illegible]

[illegible] to H. repo[illegible]ng the dismissal of Hamdi Pasha from the post of Vali of Bussorah. Ever since Hamdi's [illegible]nt in April last, the Naksa of Bussorah, who is his Excellency's personal [illegible] before, has been working to effect his downfall. The [illegible], Seyid Thalib, to represent his interests at Constantinople. The second was [illegible]es with Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit who ha[illegible] reason to dislike an[illegible] a rival to the Vali in the person o[illegible] to Hamdi and coveted his post. I also believe Mohsin to have been bought by Mubarek.

Last September, when Mubarek [illegible]ed away the offi[illegible]al sent to act as Harbour Master at Koweit, he telegraphed to the Sultan that he was rea[illegible] Majesty's orders conveyed to him direct, but he would not recognize the [illegible] [illegible]itted through Hamdi; and in consequence Mohsin (doubtless at Thalib's [illegible] was appointed to act jointly with the Vali in al[illegible] matters concerning Koweit. [illegible] then the Sultan would seem to have become more and more uneasy about a[illegible] Arabian Coast, and his fears have been sedulously worked on by the Naksa's son and [illegible] attitude is due solely to the hos[illegible] manifested h[illegible]n by Hamdi, and, were the [illegible] dismissed and M[illegible]hsin appo[illegible] be desired, and would even p[illegible] visit to Bussorah to talk over matters and arrive at a

[illegible]

Admiralty to [illegible]

(Secret.)
Sir, *Admiralty, March* 12, 1900

W[illegible] letter of the 11th instant respecting the movement [illegible] It s[illegible] Persian Gul[illegible] of the Adm[illegible] request that you will state to the M[illegible] the following t[illegible] has been sent to the Commander-in[illegible] Station:—

'Direct ship at Bussrah to pr[illegible] Koweit and remain [illegible] few days.'

[illegible] telegram has been sent [illegible]

[illegible] the Gulf [illegible] I would the[illegible] that the visit of Koweit would not excite any s[illegible]al remark, and would be looked upon as merely part of the ordinary duty of the Com[illegible]g Officer of a ship employed in these water[illegible]

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR

No. 23.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. [illegible])
M[illegible] *Constantinople, March* 13, 1900

[illegible] with reference to my telegram No. 5 of the 20th January, and to my despatches No[illegible] [illegible]d 32 of the 24th and 27th of the same month, I have the honour to transmit to [illegible] Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her M[illegible] Consul at Bussorah, rela[illegible]ng the events w[illegible]ch l[illegible]d to the dismissal of Hamdi Pasha and the appointment of Mohsin Pasha as Vali in his stead.

I [illegible]

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

Inclosure in No. 23.

Vice-Consul Beaumont to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. [illegible])
Sir, *January* 24, 190[illegible]

[illegible] to H. repo[illegible]ng the dismissal of Hamdi Pasha from the post of Vali of Bussorah. Ever since Hamdi's [illegible]nt in April last, the Naksa of Bussorah, who is his Excellency's personal [illegible] before, has been working to effect his downfall. The [illegible], Seyid Thalib, to represent his interests at Constantinople. The second was [illegible]es with Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit who ha[illegible] reason to dislike an[illegible] a rival to the Vali in the person o[illegible] to Hamdi and coveted his post. I also believe Mohsin to have been bought by Mubarek.

Last September, when Mubarek [illegible]ed away the offi[illegible]al sent to act as Harbour Master at Koweit, he telegraphed to the Sultan that he was rea[illegible] Majesty's orders conveyed to him direct, but he would not recognize the [illegible] [illegible]itted through Hamdi; and in consequence Mohsin (doubtless at Thalib's [illegible] was appointed to act jointly with the Vali in al[illegible] matters concerning Koweit. [illegible] then the Sultan would seem to have become more and more uneasy about a[illegible] Arabian Coast, and his fears have been sedulously worked on by the Naksa's son and [illegible] attitude is due solely to the hos[illegible] manifested h[illegible]n by Hamdi, and, were the [illegible] dismissed and M[illegible]hsin appo[illegible] be desired, and would even p[illegible] visit to Bussorah to talk over matters and arrive at a

[illegible]

Inclosure in No. 21.

Extract from the "Ikdam" March 6, 1900.

(Translation.)

IN consequence of the proposal made by the Vilayet of Basrah, which was approved in the competent quarters, we learn that orders have now been given to the Mushir of the 6th Army Corps for the construction of new barracks at Katif, situated on the sea coast in the Vilayet of Basrah, and the maintenance the[illegible]

these com

vis, an honest Turkish official, and though not in any way bad at, has administered his vilayet well enough. His hot temper and arbitrary disposition however rendered him generally unpopular, and his subordinates disliked him for endeavouring to check peculation and corruption.

Mohsin is excessively elated at his promotion. At present he appears to be under

My personal relations with the new Vali are very friendly, but I do not consider him at all trustworthy.

I have, &c.

C. WRATISLAW.

No. 24.

Admiralty 30)

(Confidential.)

WITH reference to Admiralty letter of the 12th instant, I am

Commander-in-chief

d stating that H

EVAN MACGREGOR.

No.

India Office to Foreign Office.

THE Under Secretary of State for India

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction

orwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in Government of India Foreign Secretary's letter, dated the 8th March, regarding Koweit

India Office, March 27,

No.

Lieutenant-Colonel Meade to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Bushire, February 5, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, an interesting Report of his recent visit to Koweit, submitted by Mr

whom I sent to ascertain what was going on after receiving your teleg

ultimo.

2. I also forward copies of translations of a letter from Sheikh Mubarak, and inclosure, sent, as he told Mr Gaskin, by a confidential

down mail-steamer on the 30th ultimo

3. Mr A. C Wratislaw, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul

also

to you

d my own

that our

trongly

s important place,

and in India demand

how any

into with

ll, I think, hold to it if he feels assured of our support.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

Sheikh Mubarak-al-Sabah, Chief of Koweit, and of a Visit to Kathama Bay.

THE Royal Indian mail-steamer "Lawrence" arrived off Koweit on Sunday, the January last, at 1.15 P.M., and anchored about 3 miles from the town, where it would be useful to take some soundings

and I proceeded on a visit to the Sheikh, and

Ibn Attaw the Chief's Secretary who informed us

went out for a drive, and would be back

d me that three

the 17th instant, and

th them except

hat passed during their

Koweit

we had some time at our disposal before the return of the Sheikh, we went out

round the town, and as we emerged from the Sheikh's residence we were met

oned Haji Ali aside quietly as we walked along, but he only repeated what

d, adding that the Sheikh had refused to come to any understanding with

ak returned at about 4.30 P.M., and apologized for not being present

receive us when we landed, stating that when he saw the "Lawrence" anchor at

h a distance from the town he did not think that any one would land so early

After conveying the Resident's compliments, and exchanging the usual courtesies, Sheikh Mubarak told me briefly what passed during the visit of the German Mission, but

s nearing sunset, and time for the Sheikh to go through his devotions, we cut our

d to the ship

efore leaving, I told the Sheikh that, with a view to check the charts, Captain Beauchamp desired to take some soundings round the ship, also to proceed to Kathama Bay for similar reasons, and Sheikh Mubarak unhesitatingly replied that Captain Beauchamp was at liberty to do as he pleased

On Monday morning I landed, and had a long interview with Sheikh Mubarak. He informed me that the German Mission on reaching Jehara, a village about 4 farsakhs from Koweit, and situated about a mile to the interior of the west shore of Kathama Bay, wrote him two letters informing him of their approach, and asking for an interview with him. That he sent no replies to these letters, and on the 19th instant, at about 1 P.M., the German Mission entered Koweit, and he provided them with a house and entertained them as his guests

composed of M. Steinrich, the German Consul-General at Con-

wapp, the surveyor; an engineer, and an interpreter, with about

were accompanied by a lad named Abdul Karim-bin-Hussein-al-

ah, but they had no Turkish escort, and brought no letters

orah and Bagdad, and had only a letter of introduc-

from the Commander-in-chief at Bagdad

That during the afternoon he had a friendly and brief visit from them, and they

called on him again at night, and he received them in the prese [illegible] cipal men of Koweit. They explained to those present the nature of the [illegible] regards the extension of the railway to Koweit, the fa [illegible] development of the place, and the general benefit it would be to ever [illegible]

That on the following morning early they had a confidential interview with [illegible]. They told him they have a Concession from the Sultan of Turkey to build railways [illegible] dominions; the Sultan has vast vested interest in the concern, and has guara [illegible] to make it a success they desire to extend the line to Kathama Bay [illegible] buy Kathama right out, and obtain on lease Chawaichib and Al Ag [illegible] present visit was only for the purpose of c [illegible] from the Ger [illegible] greetings, and to try and come to some understanding with him as [illegible] mentioned; they wish to obtain his co-operation and support, and they also desire him to use his friendly influence with the numerous Arab Sheikhs through whose territories in the Euphrates Valley the line will pass, and induce them to co-operate with the C [illegible] pany, as they believed he had authority and influence over them. That he would [illegible] handsomely paid for any land purchased and leased, and that they will satisfy the petty tribes and Sheikhs who claimed the lands for grazing purpo [illegible]

That the trade of the place will increase extensively, and, consequently [illegible] considerably, and the value of pr [illegible] place will become the centre of trade, in fact another Bombay, and that there will be plenty of work for ev [illegible]

That a line of large merchant-vessels will be established to feed the railway and for conveyance of cargo and passengers.

That if he comes to an arrangement with the Railway Company and agrees to their proposals, he and his successors will have the support of Germany, both by [illegible] water, and a man-of-war will be stationed at the place for its protection.

Sheikh Mubarak declared that, in reply, he told them that he did not understand whether they had come on their own account or on behalf of the Sultan; if on be [illegible] the Sultan, then he would have given them a letter to him.

That he desired them to understand that he only acknowledged the Sultan of Turk [illegible] as the Head of the Mahommedan world, and does not consider himself a subject of Turkey, and does not acknowledge Turkish sovereignty over Koweit territory, and if any demands are made to him by the Sultan they will be rejected.

That, on the other hand, neither he nor the Arabs wished foreigners to obtain a footing in their territory, and he will not agree to their proposals, as the Arabs will not consent to their plains and grazing-grounds being absorbed by foreigners for a railway; also, he could not guarantee the safety of the line, or be responsible for any bloodshed, as the Arabs are a free and an independent people.

As regard his using his influence over the other Arab Sheikhs, he told the [illegible] his nominal authority was limited to the district of Koweit, and he has no [illegible] or authority over the Arab Chiefs in the Euphrates Valley, he therefore cannot h [illegible] them.

Sheikh Mubarak further stated that, after hearing his reply the Germans told him that they were very anxious to come to an amicable understanding with him, and obtain his friendly support; that they were returning overland to Constantinople to arrange matters, and from there the German Ambassador will either communicate by letter to him the final terms they wish to make, or else depute a special person to arrange terms with him.

The Germans then offered him a present of six Mauser rifles, a gun having two barrels for shot, and one rifle, four watches, two saddles, and three cloaks. They also presented fifteen Turkish liras (equal to 13*l* 10*s.*) to be distributed between the Sheikh's servants. The Sheikh politely returned the presents, with the cash and told them they were his guests, and it is not a custom with the Arabs to take gifts from their guests. He therefore cannot accept them.

It appears no mention was made as to what the Company is prepared to pay for the purchase of Kathama, the lease of Chawaichib and Al Aghthi, or subsidy for the protection of the line.

The Mission left Koweit at about 8 A.M. on the 20th instant, and on their way back they visited Kathama.

Sheikh Mubarak subsequently heard from a friend that on the arrival of the German Mission at Zobeir the Consul-General sent a long telegraphic message to the German Ambassador at Constantinople, and, after engaging transport they proceeded towards the Euphrates Valley without calling at Bussorah.

As there is nothing on the maps and charts to show where Kathama is, and the

"Lawrence" was about to proceed up the bay, I asked Sheikh Mubarak to send a man with us to point out the place, and he very kindly complied.

Sheikh Mubarak told me that he considered sending letters through Fao rather risky, owing to the proximity of the Turkish telegraph office to the British station, and Bahrein being too far, he intrusted the report he wrote regarding the visit of the German Mission to Koweit to a faithful Jew, who went to Bassorah to catch the down mail-steamer leaving Bassorah on the 28th January for Bushire. The Sheikh further said that Koweit boats frequently go to Mohamerah, and it would be more convenient to him, and much safer, if he could send letters to the Resident through Mohamerah. I told him that Mr. W. McDouall, Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, resided at Mohamerah, and whenever he wished he could hand his sealed letters to our Secret News Agent, who will put it in another cover with a forwarding note to Mr McDouall, requesting that he will forward it on to the Resident.

He also told me that he has every desire to carry out the wishes of the British Government, and will do nothing without referring to the Resident. I replied that it is difficult for a Chief in his position to judge what trouble, complications, and consequences may be brought about through coming to an agreement without considering every factor, and that, so long as he left the matter in the hand of a wise friend like the British Government he may be assured that his interests will be given due consideration when he is advised as to what he should do.

From the Sheikh's conversation I got an impression that he was either afraid that, [illegible] the instrumentality of the [illegible] tion the rest of Koweit territory, or el [illegible] which will eventually be overrun by foreigners, and settling the numerous disputes [illegible] district and the foreigners.

[illegible] to our Agent on shore undisturbed, I asked him [illegible] "Lawrence" that evening. I questioned him when he came on [illegible], and as I could get nothing out of him beyond what I had already heard, I warned him that in the future he must be more on the alert, and try to get news and information of what may go on through other sources than the Chief. I told him about sending letters through Mr. Vice-Consul McDouall at Mohamerah and instructed him to send me a complete statement of duty levied by the Chief on all exports and imports, as well as of the weights and measures used in the place, as it would be useful information for our merchants in the event of the district being opened up.

The "Lawrence" left Koweit on Tuesday, the 30th instant, and proceeded up Kathama Bay. I landed with Sheikh Mubarak's man, who took me to Kathama, the place the Germans wish to buy out. The place pointed out to me was a low point running out about 3 furlongs from the north shore, and appeared to me about 3 to 4 miles west of the most conspicuous point shown on the chart. The shore behind Kathama Point is low, and has a depth of about 2¼ miles all along the coast, where it [illegible] with steep cliffs from 100 to 200 feet high, and beyond the cliffs, about 3 to 4 [illegible], the ground rises, and high mounds are to be seen. Whether, beyond these mounds, the land falls away again, or remains the same altitude, I was unable to ascertain. Chawaichib, I was told was about 2 to 2½ miles to the north-east of Kathama Point, and Al Aghthi is on the north coast, above the cliffs. It seems to me from what I can gather [illegible] the Germans want to obtain a plot of land about 20 square miles or so, having K[illegible] on the west, the second range of mounds on the north, and Chawaichib on the north-east.

There appears to be deep water, sufficient for a vessel drawing 18 feet of water, to get to about a quarter of a mile of Kathama Point.

The "Lawrence" remained in Kathama Bay the whole day, and left on Wednesday morning, and, after landing Sheikh Mubarak's men at Koweit, proceeded on her voyage to Bushire.

Captain Beauchamp took the opportunity to take several lines of soundings in the bay, and fixed the position of Kathama Point without erecting any marks or flags either on shore or at sea. He will submit a report on Kathama Bay to Resident.

The above report was prepared by Mr J. C. Gaskin, Extra Assistant Resident and Vice-Consul.

(Signed) M. J. MEADE, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Resident.*

Bushire, February 5, 1900.

Inc[illegible] 25.

Sheikh Mubarak-al-Subah, Chief of Koweit, to Lieutenant-Colonel Meade.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *January* [illegible]

I BEG to inform you of the arrival of the German Consul. He arriv[illegible] at about 1 p.m. on the 10th [illegible] at about 8 A.M. He had no letter from the Turkish Government, or from the W[illegible] of which has already been sent to you. I received a letter from him [illegible] he arrived. I did not reply to [illegible] conversation with me was in [illegible]

to accede to his wishes. He [illegible] of railway was but the rent and the value [illegible] the land would rise, and that [illegible] him now would [illegible] and the advantage would be per[illegible] therefore asked for my consent and assistance in facilitating the work [illegible] railway. I have not given him an answer in the sense he desired and [illegible] work was not viewed with favour by my people and the [illegible] my consent in a matter which was not acceptable to them. He repeat[illegible] power over all your subjects on land and at sea, and Kathama is your ter[illegible] do everything agreeable to you and to your tribe. After my return to Constantinople, and after something definite has been decided in regard to the extension of railway to Kathama, we will proceed exactly according to your wishes, and it will be for your good. I will let you know about the matter, or send a man to receive a favourable reply from you."

This is what passed between us, and it appears that the object is the construction of a railway. He has left, but I have not given my consent.

As I and my territory are under the protection of your Government, I will never give my consent; neither will I have communication with other Governments. My affairs are to be dealt with through you, and I will do all you desire.

Inclosure 4 in No. 25.

M. Stemrich and Von Kapp [illegible] *Koweit.*

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) [illegible] 1900.

THE German Consul-General, Stemrich, and M. von Kapp, engineer, have come from Constantinople with a view to making a survey, and they will reach Koweit, and are certain of inquiry owing you.

No. 26.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

No. 130. (Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 10, 1900.

I TOOK an opportunity yesterday afternoon, in the course of an interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to refer to the visit which the German Railway Commission had paid to Koweit with a view, as it was reported, to a harbour and terminal [illegible] for the Bagdad Railway.

I reminded his Excellency of the observations I had made to him when there was a rumour that the Turkish Government proposed to send a Customs Inspector and Harbour-master there, and of his Excellency's assurances that the matter would be dropped.

I said that Her Majesty's Government did not desire to interfere with the *status quo* or with the Sultan's authority in those parts, but that they could not, in view of their great interests in the Persian Gulf, view with indif[illegible] action which would alter the existing condition of affairs [illegible]

rights or privileges over territory belonging to the Sheikh of Koweit with whom Her Majesty's Government had certain agreements. I added that I trusted his Excellency would bear these remarks in mind in case any proposals were made conflicting with our interests, and I did so the more confidently as such proposals would probably also conflict with the interests of Turkey.

His Excellency said that he would take note of my observations, but he did not [illegible] me for any explanations or show any desire to enter into a discussion on the [illegible], and I conclude that the Ottoman Government have already a fairly correct [illegible] the Sheikh.

[illegible] German Ambassador called upon me. I inquired about [illegible] Commission, and whether they had delayed here on [illegible] Marschall said that they had stop[illegible] the opportunity of talking to them.

[illegible] from Bussorah that they had visited Ko[illegible] st of the great railway enterprise w[illegible] that Her Majesty's Government had [illegible] ough not opposed to the [illegible] any concession of territory to [illegible] Government, I was a [illegible] h capitalists from participating upon fair terms in [illegible] Railway, and I thought it therefore a friendly act to [illegible] ch the Sheikh of Koweit stood towards Her Majesty's [illegible]

[illegible] ble to the Ottoman Government in this position, [illegible] n the Persian Gulf that we could not afford to lo[illegible] sals tending to alter the condition of affairs. I felt [illegible] the interest of the Anatolian Railway to do anything [illegible] subscribers, and he knew that we were particularly alive [illegible] parts.

[illegible] said that he understood me to say that Her Majesty's Govern[illegible] the Sheikh of Koweit which prevented him from alienating [illegible] to another Power without the consent of Her Majesty's [illegible]

[illegible] rrectly understood me. His Excellency then said that [illegible] prevent the construction of a railway, and that he was [illegible] provoking any feeling in England which would [illegible] ting British capital from taking part in the construction of [illegible] I did not think there would b[illegible] understanding which would reconcile our interests with [illegible] and that I was glad to see that already negotiations had [illegible] Anatolian Railway and the two British Companies of the [illegible] vigation Company, and the British India Company, which [illegible] ally advantageous to both parties.

[illegible] von Marschall had heard of these negotiations with much satis[illegible] ved that for England and Germany the result would be mutually [illegible]

[illegible] which your Lordship was good enough to send me in your [illegible] ntial, of the 3rd April, made it, I consider, desirable that I [illegible] explicit in my remarks to the German Ambassador than I [illegible] months ago. I was anxious that no doubt should remain [illegible] the position in which the Sheikh of Koweit stood towards Her [illegible] ernment, and to make it quite clear that the Sheikh was not at liberty [illegible] se alienate to the railway Company, either the Harbour of Kathama [illegible] rt of his territory without the consent of Her Majesty's Govern[illegible]

[illegible] Baron von Marschall will carefully report my language to [illegible] He seemed, I thought, disturbed when I alluded to the subject, and [illegible] find out how much I know of what had passed between the Railway Commissioner and the Sheikh Mubarek, yet unwilling to question me on the subject. In the course of the conversation he said that Koweit was a part of the Turkish Empire, to which I promptly replied that we did not want to disturb the *status quo*, but that the Sheikh was not a free agent or at liberty to cede or alienate his territory without our consent. He did not pursue the subject, though he evidently had not heard my statement with satisfaction.

With good management it ought not to [illegible]
between the Anatolian Railway Company [illegible]
Navigation Companies on the other, which w[illegible]
any subsequent negotiations between Her Majesty's G[illegible]
but to this end I venture to think it is of supre[illegible]
the Sheikh of Koweit well in hand, and bear in mind that money s[illegible]
faithful observance of the [illegible]gement, which he has entered into [illegible]
Government, may, in the e[illegible]ove the most satisfactory, as well [illegible]
way of settling the [illegible]

I have, &c.
(Signed) [illegible]

No. 27

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamil[illegible] forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, dated the 5th April, relative to German railway enterprise in the Euphrates Valley.

India Office, April 21, 1900.

Inclosure in No. [illegible].

Assistant Resident, Persian Gulf, to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *March 29, 1900.*

GASKIN reported 25th March Haji Ahmad, an Algerian engineer in employment of German railway from Euphrates Valley, is at Bahrein, and states that he had come to engage pilots to take two German merchantmen, due to arrive beginning of April, to Koweit. He says that ships contain large number artisans and material for building pier Kathama Point.

No. 28

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'C[illegible]

(No. 84.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 24, 1900.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 130, Confidential, of the 10th instant, reporting the conversations which you had with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs and with your German colleague on the subj[illegible] existing between Her Majesty's Government and the Sheikh of K[illegible]

The language held by your Excellency on these occasions [illegible] Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 29

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received Apr[illegible])

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, April 25, 1900.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State, extract from a letter from the Commanding Officer of Her Majesty's ship "Sphinx," dated the 26th March, relating to the state of affairs at Koweit.

A similar communication has been made to the India Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Incl[illegible] No. 2[illegible]

Commander Phillipps to the Senior Naval Officer, Persian [illegible]

(Extract.) *Her Majesty's Ship "Sphinx," March 26, 1900.*

THE Russian gun-[illegible] "Gilyak" arrived and anchored at 9 P.M. on the 17th, sailing at 4 P.M. on the 18th [illegible]shire, after communicating with the Sheikh, to whom they brought a present.

I called on Sheikh M[illegible]n, the subject turned on the projected railway. He told m[illegible]ring at Koweit, and he said that, in his opinion, the Aral[illegible] would not permit the railway to be built.

The Russian Consul from Ba[illegible]m in the "Gilyak" and was left at Koweit, it being his inte[illegible]

I left Koweit at 10 A.M. on the [illegible]eeded to Bus[illegible]

No. 30

[illegible] *ed April 30.)*

[illegible]

Constantinople, April 26, 1900.

[illegible] ceive your Lordship's tel[illegible] reported from Bahrein that [illegible] ad Railway Co[illegible] making arrangements for the construction of a pier at Koweit.

This news seems to me [illegible] in view of the fact that the Railway [illegible] missioners only returned a f[illegible] that if it be true I am afraid it can only be explained b[illegible]npany to forestall any difficulties to be apprehended from the underst[illegible]en the Sheikh of Koweit and Her Majesty's Government, and to take adva[illegible] South Africa to settle the matter to their own a[illegible]

It is possible, of [illegible] the Minister for Foreign Affairs for definite assurances that [illegible] said has been made, but before doing so I would like to [illegible] instructions, and also to know whether the report from Bahrein [illegible] as a positive fact.

In any case I would [illegible] the necessity of keeping in very cl[illegible] touch with the Sheikh of Kow[illegible] venture to suggest that Mr. Wratislaw, who will shortly reach England, [illegible] consulted as to the advisability of a British Secret Agent being appointed to [illegible] given authority to secure t[illegible] such means as he may judge necessary after consulting with the [illegible]

In the meantime I will t[illegible] out from secret sources whether any agre[illegible] arrived at between the German Embassy and the Ottoman Government, but if such is the case it will no[illegible] kept very secret.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. N. O'CONOR.

No. 31

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 11.)

Sir,

India Office, May 10, 1900.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, marked Immediate and Confiden[illegible] dated the 4th May, inclosing a copy of Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 150, dated the 26th April.

2. His Excell[illegible] the report [illegible] relative to arrangements being in progress for the construction by Germans of a pier at Koweit, has been confirmed as a positive fact. The report was transmitted to the Government of India on the 29th March by the Assistant Resident in the Persian Gulf, and it receives some degree of confirmation from the letter, dated the 26th March, addressed by Commander

Phillipps to th [illegible]
told him that the Ger [illegible]

[illegible] adopt should th [illegible]
[illegible] of a [illegible]
question of pol [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] that
[illegible] and admiro from the Co [illegible]
contemplated railway [illegible]
Company [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] 1900

[illegible] by arrangements for the composition and [illegible] of ships in th [illegible] policy of Majesty's Govern [illegible] means and [illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible] JAY H. BOSANQUET.

[illegible] No. 52

[illegible] as received a com- [illegible] Bahrein, to the [illegible] the [illegible] on [illegible] As I [illegible] would [illegible] every [illegible] at [illegible] over to

---

[illegible]

[illegible] May 23, 1900

[illegible] No. 150, Confidential, of the 20th ultimo, I [illegible] information on the subject of the alleged [illegible] Euphrates and Bagdad Railway to construct [illegible] Bahrein.

[illegible] ONOR.

[illegible]

[illegible] dated the 10th May, regarding Koweit [illegible] the plan has to-day been sent to the [illegible]

[illegible] sure 1 in No. 4

[illegible] 1900.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter, dated the 5th February, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter, dated the [illegible] with a tracing of Koweit Harbour [illegible] that they may be communicated to his Excellency the Naval [illegible] and the Director, Indian Marine.

I have, &c.

[illegible] M. J. MEADE.

Inclosure [illegible] No. [illegible]

Lieutenant-Colonel [illegible] to Government of [illegible]

Sir, [illegible]

IN accordance with [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] to the [illegible]
passing showers, [illegible]
round the ship to a [illegible]

On [illegible]
soundings were obtained by [illegible]
fixed the position of Kathama Point [illegible]

On the morning of [illegible]
two hours at a position north-west [illegible]
returned to Bushire, where I anchored about 8:30 A.M.

During the whole of the time the ship was [illegible]
back soundings were obtained.

The existing chart of Koweit, though [illegible]
good for present purposes. Should, however, [illegible]
a detailed survey of the whole harbour [illegible]
places are incorrect, but [illegible]
line to the northward [illegible]
the probable fact of a [illegible]
dated 1825, and changes [illegible]
ground ev[illegible]
as most [illegible]

Kathama Point is [illegible]
deep water beyond it.

A flat of soft mud ext[illegible]
bay, which makes it difficult [illegible]
[illegible] tunity [illegible]
I should suppose that the mud [illegible]

A village called J[illegible]

Kathama [illegible]
partially by a bank [illegible]
½ mile inland of th[illegible]
covered with scrub, g[illegible]
high called Al Aqlth[illegible]
the ground rises gradually to a ridge some [illegible]

No cultivation was seen on the [illegible]

I beg to inclose a tracing of th[illegible]
soundings and contours of Kath[illegible]
It will be noticed that Kathama P[illegible]
I account for as already explained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. J. BEAUCHAMP.

Inclosure 3 in No. 34.

Lieutenant-Colonel Meade to Government of India, February 5, 1909.

See Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

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* [illegible]

No. 33*.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May 30, 1900.*

THE following is a confidential message from Mr. G. Mackenzie, of the British Indian Steam-ship Company, to their agent, Mr. Lyle:—

"We propose, if possible, to make Koweit a port of call for the weekly mail steamers, and wish that you should proceed to Koweit in order to endeavour to obtain the Sheikh's consent to the scheme. You should also take steps to secure a good native agent.

"In the event of any objection on the part of the Sheikh, the Resident at Bushire should be informed. Report fully on the situation in Koweit, and communicate any information [illegible] as to whether [illegible] or is for such as will [illegible] general proceedings of Germans, Russians, or others in the neighbourhood."

I request that your Excellency will instruct Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Bussorah to communicate the above to Mr. Lyle.

Inclosure 4 in No. 34.

Memorandum of an interview with Sheikh Mubarak-al-Subah, Chief of Koweit, and of a visit to Kathama Bay.

[See Inclosure 2 in No. 25.]

Inclosure 5 in No. 34.

Translation of a letter from Sheikh Mubarek-al-Subah, Chief of Koweit, to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire, dated the 21st January, 1900.

[See Inclosure 3 in No. 25.]

Inclosure 6 in No. 34.

Vice-Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Conor, January 24, 1900.

[See Inclosure in No. 28.]

Inclosure 7 in No. 34.

Major P. J. Meiklejohn to Government of India.

Baghdad, January 24, 1900.

(Confidential.)

IN continuation of my letter dated the 28th December, 1899, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Bussorah to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the arrival at Bussorah of the German Commission engaged in the survey of the proposed railway from Constantinople to Basra, and its proceedings.

Inclosure 8 in No. 34.

Vice-Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Conor, January 13, 1900.

[See Inclosure in No. 18.]

Inclosure 9 in No. 34.

Lieutenant-Colonel Meade to Government of India.

Bushire, January 29, 1900.

(Confidential.)

IN continuation of my letter dated the 15th instant, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the tracing of a plan of Kathama Bay which forms part of Koweit [illegible] *

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* [illegible]

No. 35.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 31, 1900*

WITH reference to your letter of the 10th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* inquiring whether any further information has been received on the subject of the report which had reached Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bahrein that two German merchant steamers, with the necessary plant and workmen for building a pier, were expected about the middle of April, and that they would call at Bahrein for pilots.

A copy of a letter from the Admiralty is also inclosed, referring to this report.†

Although sufficient time has now elapsed for the contradiction or confirmation of this report, no further intelligence respecting it has reached this Department, and I am to inquire whether Lord George Hamilton has received any more recent information on the subject from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bahrein or from other quarters.

With reference to the inquiry by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty as to the policy of Her Majesty's Government in the event of a collision occurring between the Germans and Arabs, I am to state that Lord Salisbury scarcely thinks that any definite instructions to Her Majesty's naval officers on the spot are required until some confirmation is received of the reported intention of German ships to visit Koweit, and until there is some indication of the methods of action which they intend to pursue.

It appears to his Lordship that if the act of landing men and materials for the construction of a pier at Koweit were to be attempted by private persons without a mandate from some recognized authority, the Sheikh would be within his rights in [illegible] Majesty's ships. Lord Salisbury is disposed to think that such action should be in support of the Sheikh's authority.

His Lordship would wish to be informed if Lord G. Hamilton concurs in this view.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 36.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 2.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 1st June, regarding Koweit affairs.

India Office, June 1, 1900.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *June 1, 1900.*

YOUR Foreign Secretary's letter of 5th April last.

[illegible] with artisans and material for constructing pier? Lord Salisbury has agreed to British India Company arranging with Sheikh to make Koweit port of call, and sending their own native agent there. If Sheikh objects, Mr. Lyle, Company's agent, [illegible] Lord Salisbury further thinks that presence of ship of war in neighbourhood would be desirable.

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* No. 1. † No. 2.

No. 37.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 8.)

WITH reference to his letter of the 1st June, the Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 7th June, relating to the reported visit of German ships to Koweit.

India Office, June 7, 1900.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Government of India to Lord George Hamilton.

(Telegraphic). *June 7, 1900.*

YOUR telegram of 1st June.

Kemball, who has recently returned from Koweit, telegraphs, 5th June, that he has no confirmation of the visit of German ships. Haji Ahmed was at Bahrein 20th May. Kemball has been informed about Lyle. "Sphinx" and "Assaye" are at Jask, and "Woodlark" [illegible] Their presence at Koweit does not in the [illegible] seem necessary.

No. 38.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 15.)

Sir, *India Office, June 14, 1900.*

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to reply to your letter of the 31st May, inclosing copies of papers regarding the alleged intention of certain agents of the German Euphrates and Bagdad Railway to construct a pier at Koweit. No information on this subject has been received at the India Office than the telegram addressed to the Viceroy on the 1st June and the reply from his Excellency on the 7th June, of which copies were forwarded to you on the same dates.

With regard to the concluding part of your letter, if the act of landing men and materials for the construction of a pier were to be attempted by private persons without any mandate from some recognized authority, Lord George Hamilton concurs in Lord Salisbury's view that the Sheikh would be within his ordinary rights in opposing the attempt. His Lordship also agrees that, in such circumstances, and having regard to our relations with Koweit, if Her Majesty's ships interpose at all, they should do so in support of the Sheikh's authority. I am to observe, however, that persons landing with this object on the coast of Koweit may be expected to come provided with some kind of mandate, for which they will claim recognition.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 39.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 156. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Berlin, June 15, 1900.*

THE very friendly language which Count Bülow held to me yesterday, as reported in my immediately preceding despatch of this day's date, encouraged me to call his attention to a question in which Her Majesty's Government took considerable interest. A report had reached Her Majesty's Government that a party of German engineers had been to Koweit with the view of securing a suitable site for the terminus of the Anatolian Railway, and although I had no instructions from your [illegible] ject, I was convinced that Her Majesty's Government would be glad to be furnished with timely information if such an idea were to be entertained.

I observed that the Sheikh of Koweit, though technically a subject of the Sultan enjoyed a large measure of independence, and had, as your Lordship had informed Count Hatzfeldt, entered into special arrangements with Her Majesty's Government

Count Bülow replied that if he remembered rightly, the information that Her Majesty's Government had special arrangements with the Sheikh of Koweit had been given by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to Baron von Marschall and not by your Lordship to Count Hatzfeldt. It was true that some German engineers had visited Koweit, accompanied by the German Consul at Constantinople, whose local knowledge enabled him to be of great assistance. His Excellency had granted the Consul leave to accompany the engineers, but not in his official capacity, and so far decision had been taken with regard to the terminus of the railway, and it was probable that some time would elapse before the question was decided. He would, however take note of what I had said, and with this view drafted a telegram to Count Hatzfeldt to inform him of the desire I had expressed that timely information might be given to Her Majesty's Government when a decision was come to

I again said that I had received no instructions from your Lordship to call attention to this question, and had only done so in the hope of avoiding any misunderstanding which might possibly arise in the event of the Sheikh of Koweit raising objections to the construction of a railway on his territory

I have, &c

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES

No. 40.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir F. Lascelles.

(No. 126. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, June 22, 1900

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 156, Very Confidential, of the 15th instant, reporting a conversation with Count Bülow respecting the [illegible] for the terminus of the Anatolian Railway, and the possible selection of Koweit for that purpose

The language held by your Excellency on this occasion is approved by Her Majesty's Government

I am, &c

(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 41.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 211

Therapia, June 18, 1900

My Lord,

THROUGH the courtesy of the Governor of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Sir [illegible] I have had an opportunity of perusing a précis of the Report of the German Commission on the Konieh-Bagdad Railway scheme, and I hope [illegible] to obtain a copy for transmission to Her Majesty's Government, but I would ask that for the moment the information shall be treated as confidential

In the meantime I inclose an extract of the part of the Report referring to Koweit, and which decides in favour of Kathama Bay as the terminal station of the line

The Report states that all the territory north-west of Kathama belongs to the Sheikh Mobarek, who has taken such an independent attitude that there can be no question of Ottoman authority in this district; but it immediately proceeds to say that "there is no doubt that the bay in question is Ottoman territory, and that it would not be difficult for the [illegible] rights

It adds that the Commissioners saw no indication of any intention on the part of the Sheikh to place himself under the protection of a foreign Power. Altogether it seems as if the Commissioners were not very clear in their own minds as to the exact position of

No. 41*

[illegible]

(No. 27. Secret.)

[illegible]

Mr. Westslaw [illegible]

No. 21

[illegible] with the [illegible] conclusion, and has asked for my good offices. I request instruc[illegible] [illegible] present my interference.

Would your Lordship approve my instructing Mr. Westslaw, if occasion arises, to warn the Vali of the interest taken by Her Majesty's Government in the matter, and of their expectation that some equitable solution may be found.

Compare Lieutenant-Colonel Meade's despatch No. 51, second paragraph.

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the Sheikh of Koweit, but that they thought it in the interest of the Company to pronounce an opinion favourable to Turkish sovereignty.

The Report concludes by stating that the receipts of the whole line may roughly be calculated at 3,476 fr. (139*l.*) per kilom.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Extract from Report of the German Commission on the Konieh-Bagdad Railway Scheme.

QUANT au terminus de la ligne, il était évident que ce ne pouvait être Basra, car il va sans dire qu'une grande ligne internationale, destinée à relier l'Europe avec l'Inde, ne peut aboutir à un port où des navires jaugeant plus de 1,500 tonnes ne peuvent y toucher que tous les quinze jours. Comme la barre située au devant de l'embouchure du Chatt-el-Arab forme l'obstacle principal de la navigation, aucun endroit situé sur le fleuve autre que Basra ne saurait être pris en considération. Le terminus ne peut être établi que sur la baie de Kouvéit. Cette baie, fréquentée maintenant presque exclusivement par des voiliers indigènes, est à proximité de l'embouchure du Chatt; elle est excellente comme profondeur et, au nord de la baie, la localité appelée Kasima offre un emplacement qui se prête merveilleusement à l'établissement d'un port. Pour les détails, nous nous référons au rapport technique, mais nous tenons à relever ici que les conditions politiques de Kouvéit, indiquées dans la première partie de ce rapport, ne constituraient probablement pas un obstacle au choix de cette localité comme terminus. Il paraît, en effet, que tous les terrains situés au nord-ouest de la baie appartiennent au Cheikh Moubarek, qui a pris, vis-à-vis des fonctionnaires Ottomans, une attitude tellement indépendante que, de fait, il ne peut être question de l'autorité du Gouvernement dans ce district. Par contre, il n'y a pas de doute que la baie en question fait partie du territoire Ottoman. Il ne serait pas très difficile au Gouvernement de faire reconnaître ses droits de souveraineté par la force; mais, d'après les impressions de la Commission, lors de sa visite à Kouvéit, la chose ne serait même pas nécessaire. Le Cheikh Mubarek reconnaît le Sultan [illegible] seigneur et maître; il déclara seulement qu'il ne voulait pas avoir affaire aux autorités de Basra, qui auraient récompensé par l'ingratitude les services qu'il avait rendus. On a prétendu que le Cheikh avait l'intention de se mettre, lui et ses possessions, sous la protection d'une Puissance étrangère; la Commission, lors de son séjour à Kouvéit, n'a pas découvert la moindre preuve d'une pareille velléité. Le langage tenu par Moubarek était spontané et paraissait exprimer son opinion réelle; du reste, il ne pourrait demander la protection d'une Puissance Chrétienne sans le consentement de la population de Kouvéit, qu'il lui serait difficile d'obtenir.

No. 42.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 242. Confidential.)

Therapia, July 13, 1900.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 33, Confidential, of the 30th May, I have the honour to report that I learn by telegraph from Her Majesty's Consul at Basra that Mr. Lyle, the agent of the British Indian Steam-ship Company, yesterday returned to that place from Koweit.

Mr. Lyle found the Sheikh quite agreeable to the projected weekly service of steamers, but on the proviso that it did not bring with it the establishment of quarantine. To obviate this, Mr. Lyle suggests putting on an extra steamer; the mail packet would then perform the necessary quarantine at Basra, and sail thence direct for Koweit without touching at Mohammerah. But he thinks it impossible, in view of the Sheikh's stipulation, to arrange for a call at Koweit on the upward voyage.

Mr. Lyle has deferred for the present the question of acquiring ground and selecting a native agent. He was most cordially and kindly received by the Sheikh, whom he firmly believes to be desirous of forwarding the scheme.

At the date of Mr. Lyle's visit no land had been sold or alienated to foreigners.

Mr. Shipley has repeated his telegram, of which the foregoing is a paraphrase, to the Government of India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 43.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 30.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of [illegible] in Government of India Foreign Secretary's letter, dated the 14th July [illegible] Kuwait affairs.

India Office, July 30, 1900.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Captain C. A. Kemball to Government of India.

Sir, *Bushire, June 2, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to state that our Confidential Agent at Koweit has reported that Mohsim Pasha, the Wali of Basrah, has written to Sheikh Mubarek saying [illegible] (Pasha), and that a decoration and Firman would arrive during May. Mohsim Pasha [illegible] equals about 1½ tons) of dates as his yearly subsidy, and that five years' allowance [illegible]

The Agent does not know what reply was sent by the Sheikh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL.

No. 44.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in Government of India Foreign Secretary's letter, dated the 19th July [illegible] the [illegible] Koweit.

It is requested that these papers, which are sent in the original, may be returned when done with.

India Office, August 9, 1900.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

Captain Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Bushire, June 20, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a Confidential letter, to my address, from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, on matters connected with Koweit.

This letter is in reply to a letter from me, asking him to ascertain how far a report [illegible] from Mr. Goskin [illegible] a Confidential letter (extract from which is also forwarded herewith), was true.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL,
Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

Consul Shipley to Captain Kemball.

(No. 90. Confidential.)

Sir, *Bussorah, June 15, 1900.*

IN reply to your letter No. 158 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to inform you that, having made due inquiries into the matter, I have been unable to find any confirmation of the report current at Bahrein, that Seyyid Ahmed, the brother of the Nakib at Bussorah, had been ordered to Constantinople in connection with the Koweit affairs, or that the Nakib himself had been directed to proceed to that district to find out the true relations between Sheikh Mubarek and our Government. Seyyid Ahmed is at [illegible] proceeding to Constantinople—all business relating to those Koweit affairs, [illegible] he is interested, being transacted by him by correspondence with the well-known Sheikh Abdul Khuda, of Yedis. Seyyid Thalib, a younger brother of Seyyid Ahmed, undertook, it is true, a journey to Constantinople last autumn, but, as reported at the time by Mr. Consul Wratislaw, this was an exceptional step taken by the Nakib in consequence of the efforts (ultimately successful) which the latter was making in conjunction with Sheikh Mubarek to procure the dismissal of Hamdi Pasha, then Governor-General of Bussorah.

As regards the report respecting the Nakib himself, Seyyid Rajab, the latter, who is connected by marriage with certain families at Koweit, pays, I am informed, frequent visits to that district, the last one, in fact, having been made only a few weeks ago. Whether Sheikh Mubarek, in the course of these visits, has taken the Nakib into his confidence with regard to his relations with the British Government, I am unable to say, but it would not be surprising if the fact were so in view of the intimate relations which exist between the two.

Coming finally to the report that Hamdi Pasha, the ex-Wali of Bussorah, is urging the Turkish Government to show its authority at Koweit, I have no [illegible] whatever of ascertaining what amount of truth, if any, it may contain. In the [illegible] itself there is nothing inherently improbable, as some such step has always been advocated by Hamdi Pasha, who has, moreover, no reason to bear any good-will to the Sheikh Mubarek, to whom, as stated above, his dismissal from his post as Governor-General of Bussorah was partly due. For the present, however, I do not think that there is any probability of anything more being heard of such a proposal, even if it has been made. Mohsin, Pasha, the present Vali, appears above all things to be desirous of keeping on good terms with the Nakib and Mubarek, to whom he owes his present position, and it is in the last degree unlikely therefore that he would risk incurring their enmity by giving countenance to a project which would so seriously affect the position of the Sheikh. At the same time, if the Central Government should consider that the time had come for putting an end to the independence of the Sheikh Mubarek, it is doubtful whether his Excellency would be able to disregard any direct orders to that effect which he might receive from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 44.

Mr. Goskin to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

(Confidential.)

(Extract.) *June 4, 1900.*

THERE is a report here (in Bahrein) that Seyyid Ahmed, the younger brother of the Nakib of Bussorah, has been ordered to Constantinople in connection with the Koweit affairs, and Seyyid Rajab, the Nakib has been directed to proceed to Koweit to find out the true relations between Sheikh Mubarek and our Government; and that Hamdi Pasha, the ex-Wali of Bussorah, is urging the Turkish Government to show their authority at Koweit. Of course, I do not know how far all this is true. It is generally suspected here that there is a clear understanding between Sheikh Mubarek and ourselves.

No. 45.

Consul Shipley to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 13.)

(No. 2. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, July 7, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, the copies of a despatch which has been addressed to me by Captain K[illegible]all, A[illegible] Political Resident at Bushire, and of my reply thereto, on the subject of various re[illegible] which have been current at Bahrein as to a renewal of activity on the part of the Turkish Government with regard to Koweit; and I beg to add that the delay in forwarding the above correspondence has been due to my recent temporary absence at Baghdad.

As regards the reports in question I am somewhat at a loss to understand from what source they have been derived as although I ha[illegible] [illegible] Mu[illegible] [illegible] as regards the [illegible] Mubarek, such as the nomination of a Harbour-master, the establishment of an effective quarantine staff, and the extension of the telegraph line from Fao to Ka[illegible] presumably through Koweit, all of which would necessitate the presence of a permanent staff of Turkish officials in that town, have apparently been dropped by his Excellency.

Further, the decoration conferred some months ago by the Sultan on Sheikh Mubarek was, if I am rightly informed, largely due to a report drawn up by Mohsin Pasha praising in high terms the general loyalty of the former and the correctness of his attitude during the visit of the British and Russian ships of war [illegible] part of [illegible].

[illegible], Sheikh Mubarek has on his part, in minor matters it is true, [illegible] to Mohsin Pasha, such as applying to the latter for advice and assistance on various occasions instead of taking affairs into his own hands.

Of course, if the Turkish Government is desirous of pursuing a more energetic policy towards Koweit protests would not be wanting, and viewed in the light of the recent [illegible] Koweit [illegible] part of [illegible] Persian [illegible] without a certain significance, though, as I have endeavoured to show, I can find no justification for it at Bussorah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY

Inclosure 1 in No. 45

Captain Kemball to Consul Shipley

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Bushire, June 10, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to forward the following extract from a letter addressed to me by Mr. Gaskin at Bahrein:—

"There is a report here that Seyed Ahmed, the younger brother of the Nakib of Bussorah, has been directed to proceed to Koweit affairs, and [illegible] Nakib has been directed to proceed to Koweit to find out the true relations between Sheikh Mubarek and our Government, and that Hamdi Pasha the ex-Wali of Bussorah, is urging the Turkish Government to show their authority at Koweit."

I shall be much obliged if you will inform me if you have received any confirmation of the above rumour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 45

Consul Shipley to Captain Kemball

(No. 90. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, June 15, 1900.

IN reply to your letter No. 158 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to inform you that, having made due inquiries into the matter, I have been unable to find any confirmation of the report current at Bahrein that Syed Ahmed, the brother of the Nakib at Bussorah, had been ordered to Constantinople in connection with Koweit affairs, or that the Nakib himself had been directed to proceed to that district to find out the true relations between Sheikh Mubarek and our Government.

Syed Ahmed is at present at Bussorah, and, so far as I know, has no intention of proceeding to Constantinople, all business relating to those Koweit affairs in which he is interested being transacted by him in correspondence with the well known Sheikh Abul K[illegible] of Yaldix. Syed Thalib, a younger brother of Syed Ahmed, undertook, it is true, a journey to Constantinople last autumn, but, as reported at the time by Mr. Consul Wratislaw, this was an exceptional step taken by the Nakib in consequence of the efforts (ultimately successful) which the latter was making in conjunction with Sheikh Mubarek to procure the dismissal of Hamdi Pashi, then Governor-General of Bussorah.

As regards the report respecting the Nakib himself, Syed Rejeb, the latter, who is connected by marriage with certain families at Koweit, pays, I am informed, frequent visits to that district, his last one in fact having been made only a few weeks ago. Whether Sheikh Mubarek in the course of these visits has taken the Nakib into his confidence with regard to his relations with the British Government, I am unable to say, but it would not be surprising if the fact were so, in view of the very intimate relations which exist between the two.

Coming finally to the report that Hamdi Pasha, ex-Vali of Bussorah, is urging the Turkish Government to show its authority at Koweit, I have no means whatever of ascertaining what amount of truth, if any, it may contain. In the story itself there is nothing inherently improbable, as some such step has always been advocated by Hamdi Pasha, who has, moreover, no reason to bear any good-will to Sheikh Mubarek, to whom, as stated above, he partly owes his dismissal. For the present, however, I do not think that there is any probability of anything more being heard of such a proposal, even if it has been made. Moshin Pasha, the present Vali, appears to be above all things desirous of keeping on good terms both with the Nakib and Mubarek, to whom he owes his present position, and it is in the last degree unlikely, therefore, that he would risk incurring their enmity by giving countenance to a project which would so seriously affect the position of the Sheikh. At the same time, if the Central Government should consider that the time had come to put an end to the independence of Mubarek, it is doubtful whether his Excellency would be able to disregard any direct orders to that effect which he might receive from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 46.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 275.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 7, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a telegram from the British Acting Consul at Bussorah, dated the 4th instant, to the effect that Seyyid Ahmed, the brother of the Nakib of that town, who returned a few days ago from Koweit, has been again sent thither with instructions to try and persuade Sheikh Mubarek to visit Bussorah. Mr Shipley thinks he is scarcely likely to come, but at the same time he may have some difficulty in refusing this renewed invitation, as the Governor-General is very desirous of seeing him at Bussorah.

The Resident at Bushire has been informed of the above.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 47

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 291.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, August 15, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 242, Confidential, of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I learn by telegraph from the Acting Consul at Basrah that the Sheikh of Koweit has written to Mr. Lyle notifying his withdrawal from the British Indian Steam-ship Company's scheme for a weekly service of steamers calling at Koweit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

No. 48

Mr. G. S. Mackenzie to Foreign Office.—(Received August 25.)

Dear Sir Thomas Sanderson,

Harrogate, August 24, 1900.

I SEND you herewith the Report, just received, of Mr. Lyle's visit to Koweit. If you prefer to retain the original, will you kindly have a copy sent to me.

Mr. Lyle appears to have carried out his instructions judiciously and entirely on private commercial lines.

Should it be deemed desirable to incorporate Koweit in the Bombay-P[illegible] Company, has told me he will be pleased to further the Government's wishes [illegible] rather.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) GEORGE S. MACKENZIE

Inclosure in No. 48

Report on Visit paid by me to Koweit, on instructions received through Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

I [illegible] Bussorah on the morning of the 3rd July, proceeding by steam-launch to Fao, which I reached on same evening. I then transferred my baggage into a bagla [illegible]

We [illegible] the bagla crew, we did not reach Koweit until the following night—the 5th. I was accompanied on my journey by Haji Abdul Latief Jeata, our horse broker, who has numerous friends in Koweit.

Before leaving Bussorah I had obtained from his Excellency the Wali, a letter of introduction to Sheikh Mubarak, and immediately on our arrival at Koweit I proceeded to the Sheikh's house and presented it.

He received me very cordially, at once sending for [illegible] from the [illegible]

I remained in Koweit till the morning of Tuesday, the 10th July, and I cannot speak too highly of the Sheikh's cordial and unobtrusive hospitality during my stay. He came and dined with me every evening, and after holding his evening reception downstairs, came back and spent an hour or so with us before retiring.

He also frequently during each day came into our room for a [illegible]

In the course of conversation on the first day I brought up the question [illegible] imposed by the Turkish Government, necessitating the smuggling of a great number of the horses across the frontier to Mohammerah, thereby causing great inconvenience and risk to the horse dealers.

I suggested the possibility of getting them to send their horses down to Koweit for shipment by mail-steamer, if he—the Sheikh—had no objection to the steamers calling in there.

He at once expressed himself agreeable to their calling if it could be arranged that their doing so would not bring about quarantine restrictions at his port or at Fao or Bussorah against Koweit, which would much hamper him and the trade of the port, especially in the date season. At present Koweit is absolutely free from any restrictions of this nature—there is free intercourse by baglo with all ports in the Gulf, both Arab and Persian, but it was apparent that the Sheikh feared that should steamers call regularly it might lead to the Turkish authorities demanding to establish a regular quarantine station there which he might find it difficult to resist.

He has hitherto successfully resisted the attempt of the Turks to impose an Imperial Custom-house at Koweit, but presumably he has no desire to afford them other openings for possible interference.

If this difficulty could be overcome he would, I feel sure, be very pleased to see the steamers calling, and he was fully alive to the benefits the trade of Koweit would derive therefrom, not only as regards the proposed horse shipments, which would create a demand for fodder and food for the horses and syces, but he also suggested the advantage it would be to the Koweit fishers to be able to ship their pearls direct from Koweit to Bombay, instead of doing so from Bahrein. He would doubtless be able to levy some duty on same.

The matter dropped then, but in order to clinch the matter a day or two afterwards I asked the Sheikh directly what he would charge per horse (presuming the quarantine difficulty were got over), in the event of my arranging with the British India Company to send their steamers into Koweit, and also with the horse-dealers to send their horses there for shipment to India.

He asked what Sheikh Khazal charged at Mohammerah, and on my informing him 40 krans, he at once said he would only charge 20 (20 krans = 5·12 rupees).

Knowing the endless inconveniences and irritation usually resulting from quarantine as administered by the Turks, I must say I think his stipulation on this head no more than reasonable, as it would entail great hardship and expense on the people of the town, the bulk of whom are seafaring. The Sheikh stated that at present about 700 boats and 12,000 men were absent from Koweit at the pearl fishing.

It would be difficult to arrange so that if mail steamers called at Koweit, their dates so would not give the Turks an excuse for acting as feared by Mubarak; but if it were considered of sufficient importance to warrant to a certain extent the dislocation of present postal and steamer arrangements, it could, it seems to me, be done by putting an extra mail steamer on the run—i.e., having six steamers on the run—thereby enabling boats to remain in Bussorah ten days and obtain pratique before leaving. Under present arrangements they arrive and leave in quarantine.

It would then be necessary for steamers (or possibly every alternate steamer might be considered sufficient to establish the connection with Koweit) to omit Mohammerah as a port [illegible] Koweit, lifting mails at Fao as at present, of course, thereby holding no communication with an infected port, as Mohammerah and all other ports in the Gulf, other than Turkish, are considered.

Mohammerah has at present a weekly homeward mail; an arrangement such as above would reduce it to a [illegible]-weekly one, but letters could always be sent up to Bussorah for post.

The above suggested arrangement only contemplates the steamers calling at Koweit on the downward journey. Under present conditions in the Gulf it would be impossible for them to call on their upward journey without raising the quarantine difficulties objected to by Mubarak.

German Railway.—In talking with the Sheikh of the proposed railway, he informed me that when the German Mission went down to Koweit a few months ago, they brought a letter of introduction from the Muchir Pasha in Baghdad. They had, however, no letter from the Wali of Bussorah. They wished the Sheikh to send a Representative with them when they went to survey the proposed terminus of the railway, but this he declined to do, putting, however, no obstacle in the way of their carrying out their investigations.

I gathered that no negotiations had taken place between them and the Sheikh, in fact that the latter, although treating them courteously, and entertaining them during their stay, accorded them no official recognition and this was confirmed by Abdul Latief's gossip with the Sheikh's secretary and the townspeople.

The Sheikh himself seemed to have formed the opinion that such a railway, if in proper hands, might be a success, but of course had a very vague idea as to what was necessary to ensure success.

He expressed himself very strongly, however, of opinion that it would not be made by the Germans, that if it were to be made successfully it must be under the auspices of the "Englaisy," in fact I was much struck with the confidence he had that England would not allow any other Power to step in and weaken the influence she had exercised in the Gulf for so lon

I feel confident both from impressions gathered from the Sheikh's conversation and also from Abdul Latief's advices that no land has been sold in Koweit to any foreigner.

I cautiously raised the question as to whether any could be acquired by remarking that I should like, if he would allow me, to get a house in Koweit, so that I could come down from Bussorah for a change occasionally, but as I anticipated, he met my su[illegible] with the Oriental remark that as "his house was mine" that was unnecessary.

I did not think it advisable to press the point as I thought it could with more plausibility be raised later on if, and when, we actually initiated the running of the steamers to Koweit, as the necessity of having an office and store could then be pressed

I wanted to go over to Kattona, the sight of the terminus of the proposed railway, it is about 10 miles from Koweit, but as the Sheikh did not seem over anxious to facilitate my going, making the excuse that his private bugle being at Fao, I could not go in an ordinary one without great discomfort, with a [illegible] to see for my trouble, I let the matter drop. I thought it better to do nothing at this time which might cause any friction between us, and I am of opinion that he feared my going over to the place might lead to talk in the town, which would doubtless reach the ears of the Turkish authorities and give rise to correspondence with them, which he does not [illegible]

In fact, when I was leaving, he said he would give me a letter to the Wali in reply to his introducing me, remarking —

"I would prefer to have no correspondence with the Hakoma, but when I get a letter I make a point of always replying promptly."

Trade of Koweit.—The normal population I was given to understand was about 25,000 to 30,000, that is of the town itself.

Without being able to form any exact estimate of its extent, there is no doubt that its trade must be very considerable.

The bazaars are very extensive, and are always crowded with people—local and Arabs from the interior. Koweit supplies an immense district. Caravans for Nejd, &c., start thence

I think there is no doubt that if a regular service of steamers made it a port of call it would be well supported, and the trade of the place could be much developed.

At present the European and Indian imports (piece goods, kerosene, oil, sugar, [illegible] &c.) are all brought up by steamer, principally to Mohammerah, and thence transhipped to Koweit by bugle. A service of steamers which would do away with this necessity would be welcomed by the merchants.

Of course, while quarantine in the Gulf lasts, preventing, under the Sheikh's stipulations, steamers calling in on their upward voyage, it might not pay steamers to deliver cargo there direct, except at very much enhanced rates of freight, as any cargo so delivered—*i.e.*, on downward journey—would by a similar amount necessitate the shutting out of cargo in Bussorah, steamers' capacities being limited to the weight they can carry across the bar

At present there are no customs duties levied at Koweit, the Sheikh having resisted the attempts made by the Turkish authorities to institute a custom-house.

The trade of bugle building flourishes, and the locally-owned fleet of boats is very large. Excellent protection is afforded for laying them up in winter in the shape of primitive but effective docks formed by the erection of breakwaters of loose boulders.

I should think the climate of Koweit much resembles that of Bussorah. During my stay it was intensely hot during the day, but the nights were very pleasant and cool. The wind seemed to be even drier than we are accustomed to in Bussorah.

The great drawback to the place is the scarcity and inferiority of its water supply, which is, of course, got from wells. These, however, do not give permanent supplies of drinkable water, as after they have been in use for a short time they become brackish, and new wells have to be sunk. The best water is got about 6 miles distant from the town, and is brought in on camels.

Koweit itself, for an Eastern town, is a marvel of cleanliness, and I was much and agreeably struck with the total absence of smells. I should think it must be an exceedingly healthy place.

The town is built along the sea front on an upward slope towards the desert, and has

a very solid appearance from the se[illegible] and, in fact, it is built very solidly, practically all the houses being of stone and "jus" (lime).

There is an almost total absence of vegetation in the surrounding country, which is quite desert and incapable of cultivation.

Sheikh Mubarak is about 50 years of age, of quiet, unostentatious manners and ha[illegible] journey overland.

As I have said, I was most hospitably treated by the Sheikh during my stay, and I [illegible] fully convinced that he bears to the English much good-will.

He sent me to Fao in his private bugle, which is built for speed, and although the winds were very light, we did the journey in ten hours.

(Signed) A. LYLE.

Bussorah, July 21, 1900.

No. 40

Consul Shipley to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 27.)

(No. 21. Confidential.)

Bussorah, July 19, 1900.

Sir,

BY my telegram No. 32 of the 12th instant your Excellency will have learned [illegible] lts of the recent visit of Mr. Lyle, of the firm of Messrs. Gray, Mackenzie, and Co., of this town, to Koweit to endeavour to arrange for the establishment of a weekly call of the British India Company's steamers at that port were on the whole satisfactory, the Sheikh having expressed himself as very [illegible] favourably Mr. Lyle's proposals, provided only they did not lead to the establishment [illegible]

Mr. Lyle, as your Excellency will have furth[illegible] thered from my telegram above [illegible] a native agent, or of the acquisition of a piece of ground to serve as a depot for the company, partly because he considered it would be useless to do so until the quarantine question should have been arranged, and partly because he regarded his present visit to Koweit as preliminary [illegible] intending to make a second one later on in the year.

[illegible] leave that Sheikh Mubarak [illegible] before co[illegible]mitting himself definitely to Mr. Lyle's proposals, should have sought [illegible] rous of securing himself against the establishment in his territory of a system which, he is well aware, would not only afford the Turkish authorities a very [illegible] interference in his affairs, but would also deal a serious [illegible]

[illegible] steamers would only call at Koweit in free pratique, were accepted [illegible] given to me by Mr. Lyle of the [illegible] early part of this year, from which it [illegible] according them every facility for effecting the survey of the [illegible]

the most likely to recommend itself to him would be that of gaining time. He would hardly feel himself called upon [illegible] engage him to nothing, especially as, according to Mr. Lyle, neither he nor his people have the slightest belief that the project will ever come to anything, at any rate, in the near future.

I have already brought to your Excellency's notice in my telegram the kind and cordial nature of the reception accorded to Mr. Lyle by Sheikh Mubarak, and while this is no doubt due in part to the fact that the former is very well known to, and esteemed by, the Arabs of these districts, I trust that I am not wrong in thinking that it may, perhaps, be also taken as evidence of good-will borne by the Sheikh to Englishmen generally, and of a desire on his part to enter into closer business relations with us, especially as Mr. Lyle, with the exception of a letter of introduction obtained for him through the good [illegible] from the Governor-General [illegible] Pasha, had, so far as I am aware, very little other aid of an adventitious nature to rely upon in his mission. The Sheikh's kindness was the more appreciated by Mr. Lyle as the latter told me he was not long in Koweit before discovering that the Sheikh's authority, though most quietly and unostentatiously exercised, was none the less real and effective, his decisions being in all cases accepted with unquestioning obedience by his people.

Speaking of the affair in a purely commercial aspect [illegible] of the results of the establishment of a weekly call of the British India Company's steamers would be at the outset at least, to make that port the centre of an extensive export trade in horses, and Mr. Lyle, previous to his departure, made no secret at Bussorah of the fact that the furtherance of this design was one of the main objects of his visit.

On horses exported from Bussorah the practically prohibitive duty of 5 Turkish liras per animal is levied by the Turkish authorities, with the only result, I am told, of swelling the revenue of the Sheikh of Mohammerah, into whose territory the majority of the horses now exported are smuggled by the dealers. Mr. Lyle, however, points out to me that, as far as Koweit is concerned, he thinks that the trade in horses, though [illegible] as a permanent source of revenue, owing to the opposition it would arouse [illegible] part of the Turkish authorities, who, in the case of Koweit, could take measures which would be out of the question where Mohammerah is concerned. There would, nevertheless, be a certain amount of gain to start with, and no doubt other sources of traffic would in the meantime be developed.

I may add that his Excellency Mohan Pasha, though I have had several interviews with him since Mr. Lyle's return from Koweit, has made no allusion to the latter's visit nor have I [illegible] the subject, as it appeared to me that at the present stage of the affair no useful object would be served by my doing so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 50.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 298.)
My Lord,

Therapia, August 19, 1900.

IN my despatch No. 275 of the 7th instant I acquainted your Lordship with the rumours which had reached me from the Acting Consul-General at Bussorah to the effect that efforts were being made to induce the Sheikh of Koweit to visit that town.

I now have the honour to report that I have been informed by M. [illegible] that it has been [illegible] to the Sheikh [illegible] the visit [illegible] that the proposed visit shall not be insisted on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 51.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 5.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in Foreign [illegible] proposal that the British India Steam [illegible] call.

India Office, September 5, 1900.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire, July 28, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have received a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, intimating the result of the visit lately paid by Mr. Lyle to Koweit, in connection with the proposal that the British India Steam Navigation Company should [illegible] letter.

I am not aware what the views of the Company, in this connection, are; whether [illegible] to make Koweit a port of call for their mail steamers, or whether their [illegible] at Koweit on their homeward journeys from Bussorah without touching at Mohammerah would not commend itself to the Company. This, however, seems to be a matter for the consideration of the Company; from a political point of view I do not imagine that it is [illegible] would with deference beg to express my views, promising that I can only treat the subject from a local point of view and am not aware if it will be possible for Her Majesty's Government to arrange with the Porte that the question of quarantine shall [illegible] Koweit [illegible] British India Steam Navigation [illegible] Koweit as at Bussorah, namely, that ten days' quarantine should be imposed in case [illegible] at Koweit from ports other than Turkish. The Government of India are aware that [illegible] Koweit [illegible] considered that there are other influences at work, and that, in addition to the chiefs whom Sheikh Mubarak has in various quarters, who would be glad to see him in trouble, there are Turkish officials who would not care to see so favourable an opportunity pass [illegible] establishing their lucrative system of quarantine in that place.

[illegible] they may dislike the idea, to the steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company calling at Koweit, and Her Majesty's Government may see fit to contest the right of the [illegible] Turkish [illegible] Her Majesty's [illegible] would expect [illegible] Government must be prepared to take [illegible] Turkish [illegible] necessary to take in their steps in [illegible] of the Chief's authority in the place. It must also be considered that, in the

Turkish Government yields to our representations, Koweit will henceforth be treated as a foreign port, and Koweit vessels will be subjected to quarantine at any Turkish port. Probably, also, Sheikh Mubarak will be subjected to further retaliatory measures on the part of the Turks, which it is not necessary for me to explain here.

Although, then, I am of opinion that the proposal to make Koweit a port of call for British steamers is one which deserves our fullest encouragement, I fear that any movement in this direction at the present time will undoubtedly give rise to embarrassing complications, and I think that, unless Her Majesty's Government is in possession of information which would render an early declaration of our views concerning K[illegible] advisable, regardless of the consequences, the proposal to make Koweit a port of call should be deferred for the present.

6. In conclusion, I may be permitted to say that it is impossible not to sympathize with the desire of the Chief not to have a Turkish quarantine est[illegible] at Koweit.

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Bushire, August 13, 1900.*

HIS AR Sheikh has written to Lyle withdrawing agreement allowing British India steamers to visit Koweit. I hope to receive more definite information shortly.

No. 52.

Consul Shipley to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at Foreign Office, September 24.)

(No. 26. Confidential.)

Sir, *Bussorah, August 15, 1900.*

BY my telegram No. 35 of the 15th instant your Excellency will have learned that Sheikh Mubarek, of Koweit, had succeeded in inducing Mohsin Pasha, the Governor-General of this vilayet, not to insist on the invitation to visit Bussorah which, as I had th[illegible] your Excellency in my telegram No. 33 of the 4th of the same m[illegible] conveyed to him from his Excellency by Syed Ahmed, an influential member of the Nakib's family in this town.

There can be no doubt that Sheikh Mubarek has shown great prudence in declining [illegible] correct, the matter has not been arranged without some little cost to himself. His position, in fact, with regard to this particular question, is a difficult one, as, apart from the obligations entailed upon him by his acceptance of the office of Kaimakam, there w[illegible] Mr Wratislaw, in his despatch to your Excellency No. 3 of the 24th January last, a distinct undertaking given by his supporters at Constantinople last year that, in return for the dismissal of the late Vali, Hamdi Pasha, the visit to Bussorah should be paid.

For the present the matter, as far as I can ascertain, seems to have been allowed to drop, but it is, I think, most unlikely that the promise above referred to has been forgotten, and I would venture to point out to your Excellency that its non-fulfilment may, by rendering the Sheikh liable to periodical pressure on the part of the Turkish authorities, eventually become the cause of difficulties of a serious nature.

As I had the honour to report to your Excellency, in the concluding part of my t[illegible] Mr Ly[illegible] drawal from the project of a weekly call by the British India Company's steamers at Koweit.

As the despatch of the letter, copy of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, conveying the above notification was, Mr Lyle informs me, evidently delayed until the arrival at Koweit of Syed Ahmed.

I have a strong suspicion that the latter, whether commissioned to that effect by the Turkish authorities or not, has been no stranger to the decision to which the Sheikh [illegible] will not fail to observe, is of a very friendly nature, hardly conveys [illegible] opposed to the project *per se*, and the supposition that extraneous influence must have been brought to bear upon him is, I think, further shown by the fact that if he were not

on other grounds desirous of proceeding no further with the British India Company's project, the unwillingness of the Bussorah horse-dealers to come to Koweit, to which he alludes, need certainly not have been an obstacle to further negotiations.

Syed Ahmed, it may be noted, passes for holding decidedly anti-English views, and while I am not altogether disposed to share the above opinion without reserve, it would not be surprising if he should consider that the relations in which he and his family stand towards the Turkish Government, and especially towards the present Governor-General, Mohsin Pasha, required him to give a proof that such influence as he possesses with Sheikh Mubarek w[illegible] be exerted against the possibility of the latter's entering into too close relations with a British Company.

In concluding my report I would beg to be allowed to correct the statement made in my despatch to your Excellency No. 21 of the 19th ultimo, to the effect that Mr Lyle, previous to his departure for Koweit, made no secret at Bussorah of the fact that the furtherance of the export trade in horses was one of the main objects of his visit. Nothing, it appears, was said by Mr. Lyle as to what the purpose of his visit might be thought; it is true that shortly after his return it became generally known at Bussorah that the export of horses was one of the matters discussed between himself and the Sheikh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Sheikh Mubarek to Mr. Lyle.

(Translation.)

MUBAREK-EL SABAH writes with compliments. He had the pleasure to receive your favour of the 21st Rebi Ewel, and was very glad to hear of your safe arrival at Bussorah, and hopes you are keeping in good health. As for him, he felt the separation from you very strongly. He wishes to God that this will not be the last interview.

As for what you have said to the Wali, it is a token of your noble person.

As for the people of the subject in hand they do not much care for it, which please note. He (Mubarek) hopes you will always continue your letters. He will be glad to do anything you may want done at Koweit. His brothers and sons give you their best compliments.

4th Rebi Sani, 1318.

(On a separate slip of paper, same handwriting.)

When we understand that the horse shippers do not care to come to our side we do not see any necessity for the mail-steamers to come to our port.

No. 53.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.) P *Therapia, October 3, 1900.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Bussorah telegraphed yesterday that a raid on the territory of Nejd has just been made by Sheikh Faisal, it is said with the connivance of Sheikh Moubarek.

The Amir of Nejd is now in pursuit of Faisal, who, with his followers, is [illegible] for the neighbourhood of Koweit. Mr. Shipley says that he is not in a pos[illegible] gauge the accuracy of the latter information, but that so much importance is att[illegible] to it by the authorities that a special messenger has been sent to report on the s[illegible] and to try to bring about an arrangement between the Amir and Sheikh Moubarek.

Mr. Shipley has placed the Resident at Bushire in possession of the foregoing information.

No. 54.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 9.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in [illegible] of the [illegible] ber, regarding Kowe[illegible]

India Office, October 8, 1900.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Lieutenant Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Bushire, August 29, 1900.*

IN continuation of my letter dated the 28th July, I have the honour to re[illegible] that I have received information from Her Majesty's Consul at Basrah that the Chief of Koweit has withdrawn his assent to the project for making Koweit a port of call by steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company.

A copy of Mr. Shipley's despatch to his Excellency the Ambassador at Constantinople on this subject, and on other matters relating to Koweit, is forwarded for your information.* It would appear to me from a perusal of the letter from Sheikh Mubarek to Mr. Lyle, which forms the inclosure to Mr. Shipley's despatch, that the Chief's withdrawal from the scheme is not conveyed in very decided terms, and I have little doubt that his objections could be removed when a suitable opportunity occurs for the reconsideration of the scheme.

[Other Inclosures not printed.]

No. 55.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 10.)

Sir, *India Office, October 9, 1900.*

WITH reference to the letter from the Foreign Office dated the 5th October, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to forward, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, a copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 8th October, reporting the [illegible]ity of fighting in the neighbourhood of Koweit.

2. Subject to Lord Salisbury's concurrence, his Lordship proposes to approve the course suggested by the Viceroy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) *October 8, 1900.*

KEMBALL telegraphs fight is likely in neighbourhood of Koweit between Amir of Nejd and Sheikh Moubarek.

I incline to send Kemball to Koweit to ascertain true state of affairs, and to counsel Moubarek to avoid giving Turks an excuse for interference.

Do you approve?

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* See No. 52.

No. 56*.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Therapia, October 14, 1900.*

I HAVE received to-day, by telegraph, the following, dated the 12th October, from Her Majesty's Consul at Bussorah:—

[illegible] French Vice-Consul is on board. Si[illegible] to arrive the 13th October. I have informed Her Majesty's Consul-General at [illegible] the Lawrence [illegible] should be dispatched to that place. It seemed already said that the Resident should follow.

"There was no indication last night, when I first telegraphed to Bushire the date of departure [illegible] visit Koweit, and as the French Vice-Consul did not reach Bussorah from Bagdad until the 10th October, the information did not, in fact, transpire until to-day."

Her Majesty's Consul-General has also informed by telegraph of the proposed visit of Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Koweit.

No. 56.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 12, 1900.

Sir,

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Salisbury your letter of the 9th instant, inclosing a copy of a telegram from the Viceroy of India relative to the danger of a conflict between the Amir of Nejd and the Sheikh of Koweit.

Lord Salisbury concurs with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in approving the Viceroy's proposal to send the Acting Resident at Bushire to Koweit to ascertain the true state of affairs there, and to advise Sheikh Mubarek to avoid giving the Turkish authorities an excuse for interference.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 57.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 348.)

Therapia, October 9, 1900.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Shipley's despatch No. 26 of the 18th August last, which he addressed to me under flying seal to your Lordship, and in which he makes [illegible] remarks on the relations of Sheikh Mouharek, of Koweit, with the Turkish authorities, I have the honour to report that, according to a paragraph in the "Moniteur Oriental" of the 3rd instant, the Sultan has conferred upon him, as "Kaimakam of Koweit" (Bussorah), the gold and silver medals of the Order of the "Imtiaz."

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 58.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 16.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 14th instant, regarding Koweit and Nejd.

India Office, October 15, 1900.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

India Office, October 14, 1900.

YOUR telegram of the 8th instant: Koweit, Nejd.

Proposal to send Kemball and instruction approved.

No. 59.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 66.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, October 17, 1900.

WITH reference to my No. 63 of the 5th, I have received the following from Her Majesty's Acting [illegible]

"The situation [illegible] Much prudence has [illegible] Fuzul from further raiding. The [illegible] the Amir of Nejd has abandoned further operations."

No. 60.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 865. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 23, 1900.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 54 of the 14th, I have the honour to transmit herewith a paraphrase of a further telegram from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Bussorah on the subject of the Persian Vice-Consul's visit to Koweit. Mr. Shipley [illegible] that a Commission of inquiry into the affairs of Koweit will shortly arrive at Bussorah. I am asking him by telegraph to report any confirmation of this intelligence, so that, if necessary, I may [illegible] Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople [illegible] despatches No. [illegible] of the 3rd September and No. [illegible] of the 10th September [illegible] Her Majesty's Government [illegible] Koweit [illegible] affairs in those parts.

I am, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Acting Consul Shipley to Mr. de Bunsen.

(Telegraphic.) P

Bussorah, October 21, 1900.

THE French Vice-Consul returned the day before yesterday from Koweit where he had stayed three days.

[illegible] with some Arab [illegible] but the party was hospitably received by his son.

A Commission of Inquiry into affairs at Koweit is, I hear, to arrive in a fortnight or three weeks in this town. It will consist of three members, one being of the rank of Vali.

No. 61.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 872. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 30, 1900.

I LEARN by telegraph from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Bussorah that the Commission mentioned in the last paragraph of the telegram [illegible] my despatch No. 865, Confidential, of the 23rd instant, is to pass through [illegible] proceeding to Koweit.

Mr. Shipley does not mention the point of departure of the Commission, but hopes to obtain further information in a few days.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 62.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 12.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 10, 1900.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, [illegible] telegram [illegible] from the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, relative to a quarrel between the Amir of Nejd and the Sheikh of Koweit.

A copy has also been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Commander-in-chief, East Indies, to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Trincomalee, November 10, 1900.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from "Redbreast" at Bussorah 9th November:—

"Amir of Nejd is fifty hours from Bussorah with considerable force, and has demanded from Turkey satisfaction [illegible] Sheikh of Koweit, failing which he threatens to attack Jattee. It is possible [illegible] Consul has requested instructions should attack occur.

No. 63.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 14.)

Sir,

India Office, November 14, 1900.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India to inclose, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, copies of a telegram, dated the 12th November, received from the Viceroy of India, and of a telegram transmitted to his Excellency on the [illegible] reference to the letter from the Admiralty, dated the [illegible] which a duplicate was sent to the Foreign Office), and to Mr. de Bunsen's telegram, No. 69, inclosed in your letter of the 3rd November.

Lord George Hamilton considers that, in the event of the Amir of Nejd threatening Koweit, Her Majesty's Government are bound, under the terms of the Agreement dated January, 1899, to extend their good offices to the Sheikh. Under these circumstances it seems desirable that the Government of India should dispatch an Agent to Koweit in one of Her Majesty's vessels of war to inquire into the condition of affairs, and to endeavour to give a warning to the Amir that no attack upon Koweit will be allowed. In the event of its being found impossible, with the naval force available at the moment, [illegible] attack be land the Sheikh should be offered a refuge on board the ship, and [illegible] provided. If the Marquess of Lansdowne concurs in these views, I [illegible] the necessary instructions should be given to the Admiralty by the [illegible] their purport will be communicated to his Excellency the Viceroy by telegraph.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.)

November 12, 1900.

ALLEGED [illegible] Amir of Nejd against the Sheikh of Koweit [sic]. We have taken no action upon assumption that, if instructions are required, they will be sent from home.

Inclosure 2 in No. 63.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

November 12, 1900.

RE [illegible] Bussorah [illegible] Amir of Nejd [illegible] satisfaction against Koweit, along which [illegible] Has Kowe[illegible] on position there? What are [illegible] between Amir and Sheikh?

No. 64

Foreign Office to Admiralty

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 14, 1900.

WITH reference to your letter (M) of the 10th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a letter from the India Office on the subject of the reported intention of the Amir of Nejd to attack the Sheikh of Koweit.*

Copies of telegrams from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople on the subject are also inclosed.†

Lord Lansdowne has expressed his concurrence with the view of the Secretary of State for India that the Government of India should dispatch an Agent to Koweit in one of Her Majesty's [illegible] to give a warning to the Amir that no attack upon Koweit will be allowed, and I am to request that a vessel may be placed at the disposal of the Government of India for this purpose.

With reference to the proposal in the letter from the India Office that if Koweit is attacked the expulsion of the invaders should be undertaken as soon as the means are provided, I am to state that Lord Lansdowne is of opinion that it will be sufficient if the Lords Commissioners will take such preliminary steps for the protection of the Sheikh as they may consider necessary [illegible] his Lordship does not consider it desirable that any active measures should be taken or any force landed with this object without a [illegible] Her Majesty's [illegible] that their Lordships will give instructions accordingly.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 65.

Foreign Office to India Office

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 14, 1900.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 14th instant, [illegible] copies of telegraphic [illegible] with the Viceroy of India on the subject of the proceedings of the Amir of Nejd, who is reported to be threatening an attack on the Sheikh of Koweit.

With reference to that letter and to the letter from this Office of the 14th instant, [illegible] the decypher of a further telegram from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople on the same subject, I am to state that Lord Lansdowne concurs in the view of the Secretary of State for India that it is desirable that the Government of India should dispatch an Agent to Koweit in one of Her Majesty's ships to inquire into the condition of affairs and to endeavour, if necessary, to give a warning to the Amir that no attack upon Koweit will be allowed.

Lord Lansdowne will request the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to provide a ship for this purpose, and at the same time [illegible] the [illegible] to take any active measures for this latter purpose, or to land any force for the expulsion of invaders without a further reference to Her Majesty's Government, and he will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty accordingly.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

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* [illegible]

† Mr. de Bunsen, Nos. 58, 59. [illegible]

No. [illegible]

[illegible]ralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 16.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 14, 1900.

I AM [illegible] by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for [illegible] the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the inclosed copy of a telegram of this day's date from the Senior Naval Officer, Port Said, as it seems possible that it may have reference to the matters reported in telegram of the 10th instant from the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station, a copy of which was sent to the Foreign Office and to the India Office on that date.

A similar letter has been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Senior Naval Officer, Port Said, to Admiralty

(Telegraphic.)

"*Dryad*," *at Port Said, November* 14, 1900.

TURKISH transport "Hodeidah," with 1,050 troops, left for Bussorah. Commander-in-chief has been informed.

No. 67

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 16.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 15, 1900.

With reference to your letter of the 14th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram, dated the 15th instant, which has been sent to the Commander-[illegible] of the Amir of Nejd to attack the Sheikh of Koweit.

Their Lordships desire me to point out that as your letter under reply does not [illegible] that the suggestion of the India Office that the Sheikh of Koweit be offered refuge [illegible] of Her Majesty's ships, if necessary, that direction has not been embodied in the telegram to the Commander-in-chief.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Admiralty to Commander-in-chief, East Indies Station.

(Telegraphic.)

Admiralty, November 15, 1900.

YOUR No. 75.

Government of India has been directed to dispatch an Agent to Koweit to [illegible] Amir [illegible] Her Majesty's ships at disposal of Government of India for conveyance of Agent.

In case of attack upon Koweit endangering Sheikh, such preliminary steps are to be taken for his [illegible] to be taken or any force landed with this object without [illegible]

Report name of vessel selected, and acknowledge.

No. 68.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 16.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, November* 16, 1900.

WITH reference to previous correspondence [illegible] d by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for th[illegible] of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the decypher of a telegram, [illegible] 16th November, from the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station, relating to the threatened disturbances at Koweit.

A similar communication has been sent to the India Off[illegible]

I am, &c.

[illegible] EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Commander-in-chief, East Indies Station, to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Trincomalee, November* 16, 1900, 2 11 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 92.

"Cossack" ordered immediately to Bushire for disposal by Govern[illegible] I have directed "Racoon" to proceed to Muscat from Aden, and "Redbre[illegible] Shat-ul Arab, placed at disposal of Senior Officer, Persian Gulf. French [illegible] in "Cr[illegible] are at Muscat.

No. 69.

[illegible]

(No. 40.)

[illegible] *November* 16, 1900.

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 1 [illegible] d 13, instant relating to the dispute between the Ar[illegible] Koweit, I have to inform you that the Government of India have de[illegible]ted to send an agent to report on the state of affairs at that place, and to endeav[illegible] warn the Amir that an attack upon Koweit will not be permitted.

No. 70.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 17.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, November* 15, 1900.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners [illegible] the 13th instant, from the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station.

A similar letter has been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 70.

Rear-Admiral Bosanquet to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Trincomalee, November* 15, 1900.

WITH reference to Admiralty telegram No. 91. I have informed Government of India, and ordered Senior Naval Officer in Persian Gulf to Bushire. "Redbreast" remains at Bussorah.

No. 71.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to [illegible] ng Koweit affairs.

A copy has been [illegible]

India Office, November 16, 1900.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

India Office, November 15, 1900.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram, 12th November: Koweit.

Foreign Office are informing Admiralty that a vessel should be detailed to take an Agent to Koweit to inquire into state of affairs, and endeavour to warn the Nejd Amir if necessary, not to attack Koweit. Preliminary steps will be taken by Admiralty to protect Sheikh if attacked. But no active [illegible] for this purpose will be taken, and no force landed to expel invaders, without further reference to Her Majesty's G[illegible] ment. I presume you will send Resident, Bushire, and inform Naval Comma[illegible] chief, India, accordingly.

No. 72.

Consul Shipley to Mr. de Bunsen.—(Received at the Foreign Office, November 19.)

(No. 91. Secret.)

Bussorah, October 15, 1900.

Sir,

IN continuation of my telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassador No. 44 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to report that the French store-ship "Drome," with M. Rouet, the French Vice-Consul at Bagdad, on board, left Bussorah at about 4 P.M. on the day above referred to.

As stated in my telegram to his Excellency, M. Rouet did not arrive there from Bagdad until the 10th instant, and although the "Drome," arriving on the 4th instant, had already made a stay of a week in these waters, nothing had transpired as to an intention on her part to visit Koweit, and I have reason to believe from a statement made by the Captain, Commander Martel, that the visit in question was not finally settled until the 11th instant, after the interview which the French Representatives had with his Excellency Mohsin Pasha, the Governor-General of the vilayet. Under the circumstances, it hardly seemed desirable that the "Redbreast" should have the appearance of following up the French at present. I there been time to refer to his Excellency for instructions and in telegraphing the above to the Acting Political Resident at Bushire I ventured to suggest the dispatch to Koweit of the Indian marine ship "Lawrence," which I understood was at Colonel Kemball's disposal.

Beyond firing a salute of twenty-one guns on arrival, and on Commander Martel's visit being returned by the G[illegible]vernor-General, no attempt [illegible] t display whatever was made by the "Drome" [illegible], her attitude in this respect being in marked contrast with that adopted by the Russian gun-boat the "Gilyak" on her visit to this place in the early part of the year. Commander Martel however was evidently an officer of ability and experience, and the fact of his being placed in command of a vessel of the class of the "Drome" would seem to show that special importance had been [illegible] to the visit of that ship to the Gulf. M. Rouet, I [illegible] He had at first intended to take the land [illegible] K[illegible]wait [illegible] of the somewhat unsettled state [illegible] "D[illegible]" [illegible] at Bussorah, the latter ship profiting by the instructions which, as I [illegible] to inform Her Majesty's Ambassador in my telegram of the 30th ultimo, had been issued in

the case of the "Redbreast," and which, I have been informed by the Bussorah quarantine authorities, will serve as a precedent in future visits of men-of-war under similar circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 73.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 387.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 12, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 348, of the 9th ultimo, I have the honour to report that according to the "Ikdam" the Sheikh Moubarek continues to endeavour to ingratiate himself with the Sultan. It is stated in the issue of that paper, of the 10th instant, that upon the request of Moubarek-es-Sabah Pasha, Kaimakam of Koweit, made through the Vali of Bussorah, the Sultan has been pleased to allow the Mosque at Koweit, erected by Moubarek at the cost of £T.3,000, to be called after His Imperial Majesty's name.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 74.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 388.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 14, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, paraphrases of the telegrams from Her Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, the substance of which was given in my telegram to your Lordship of yesterday.

They show that the Ameer of Nejd is prosecuting with vigour his quarrel with the Sheikh of Koweit, and that though an attack by the former on Koweit will probably be averted, it is within the possibilities of the situation. The Ameer, it seems, has moved somewhat further up the Euphrates to Samava, which is within the vilayet of Bagdad. At the end of last month he was in the neighbourhood of Nasiri, or Nasrye, in the Bussorah vilayet. He is reported to be still pursuing Sheikh Sadun, of the Muntifik Arabs, the ally of the Sheikh of Koweit, and his demands, as against the latter include, as Mr. Wratislaw learns, an apology for Sheikh Sadun's raid in the territory of Nejd, restitution of the stolen property, recognition of the Ameer as suzerain, and justice for the nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit who had taken refuge with the Ameer.

The Vali of Bussorah appears to be acting as mediator, but troops are being moved from Bagdad to Bussorah, and it is evident that a disturbance of the peace is considered possible.

Her Majesty's acting Political Resident at Bushire, who is in communication with Mr. Wratislaw, will doubtless proceed to Koweit and arrange for Her Majesty's ship "Redbreast" to meet him there unless the situation improves.

Meanwhile, I am endeavouring to ascertain here what is known of these events, and I trust that no movement of Turkish troops southward from Bussorah will be necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 74.

Consul Wratislaw to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Bussorah, November 13, 1900.*

WORD has been sent by the Ameer of Nejd that he will attack Koweit, unless immediate and full satisfaction is given him by the Sheikh. His demands, as I am informed, include restitution of the stolen property, apology for the raid, justice for the

Sheikh of Koweit's nephews, and recognition by the Sheikh of the Ameer as suzerain. Under instructions from Constantinople the Vali has sent the son of the Naib overland to Koweit to bring the Sheikh to reason. He also sent to-day the Nakib's brother, together with the Ameer's Bussorah Agent, up the Euphrates with a message to the Ameer [illegible] to the [illegible] contained in a letter brought by them from the Vali, and to return home. A telegram has been received from the Field-Marshal at [illegible] reinforcements to the Bussorah province in the form of three battalions and two batteries.

The general opinion here is that Koweit would be outmatched in any conflict with Nejd. The Sheikh, however, professes complete confidence in his ability to resist an attack. I do not, myself, think that an attack on Koweit is probable, but it is within the possibilities of the situation, and I venture to suggest that it would be well if our attitude in this eventuality could be decided beforehand.

I have repeated this telegram to Bushire.

Inclosure 2 in No. 74.

Consul Wratislaw to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Bussorah, November 13, 1900.*

THE Sheikh of Koweit [illegible] to be, with [illegible] from Koweit [illegible] to be [illegible] Koweit. [illegible] Vali's emissary has not [illegible] Sultan has [illegible] pardoned the exiled Sheikh Doza, who is with the Ameer. It appears that reports of commissariat have driven the Ameer to Samava in the vilayet of Bagdad.

No. 75.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 19th November, regarding Koweit and Nejd.

India Office, November 19, 1900.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) *November 19, 1900.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram of the 12th November. When Kemball visited Koweit the Sheikh was absent, and he found it difficult to ascertain true state of [illegible] Sheikh has espoused the cause of the Sheikh's nephew, that the Sheikh supports the cause of Abdul Rehman [illegible] Sabah family [illegible] Nejd, and he has raided in order to weaken Ameer's authority in self-defence. Your telegram of the 15th November. I have told Kemball to go in vessel which is being detailed by Admiralty, and if still necessary to send warning to Ameer not to attack Koweit.

No. 76.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 19th November regarding Koweit and Nejd.

A copy has been sent to the Admiralty.

India Office, November 19, 1900.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) *November 19, 1900*

KEMBALL telegraphs that Koweit crisis is over [illegible]

No. 77.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 19.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Bushire, November 19, 1900*

WITH reference to the recent seizure of ammunition and arms on the British ship "Hathor" at this port, I have the honour to report that an Arab native of Koweit [illegible] communication with the Turkish Vice-Consul, by whom the man is claimed as a Turkish subject.

Am I to contest the Turkish claim on the ground that Her Majesty's Government do not [illegible] the Turkish sovereignty over Koweit? The Government of India, to whom I have referred the point, have instructed me to refer to your Lordship.

No. 78.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 20.)

Sir, *India Office, November 20, 1900*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 19th November [illegible] the steam-ship "Hathor" are not fully known to the Secretary of State for India. It is, however, obviously expedient that no cause should be given for [illegible] will thereon arise whether the passenger charged by the Persian authorities [illegible] of Regulation has any *locus standi* as a British subject or protected person. The burden of proof will rest upon him, and if he proves that he is a subject of Koweit [illegible] which may admit of some doubt, since a casual resident or visitor to Koweit need not be a subject of Koweit, the question of protection due to a subject of Koweit can then be considered. But as at present advised Lord George Hamilton [illegible] protected subject can be [illegible] I [illegible] attention to my

letter of this date, suggesting that Colonel Kemball should proceed to Koweit as originally proposed. If the Marquess of Lansdowne concurs, the reply to the Viceroy's telegram of the 19th November on that subject can include a direction to Colonel Kemball to act as proposed in this letter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 79

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 20.)

Sir, *India Office, November 20, 1900.*

REVERTING to the telegram from the Viceroy of India, dated the 19th November, of which a copy was sent to you on the same day, relative to the proposed visit of the Consul-General at Bushire to Koweit, I am directed to invite attention to the remark that Lord Curzon awaits instructions.

It may be true that the present crisis has passed, but from the previous telegram of the Viceroy, dated the 19th November, it appears that, on his last visit to Koweit, Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Kemball did not meet the Sheikh, and the account which he gave of the quarrel between Nejd and Koweit was not very clear. It also seems that the recent reconciliation has been effected through Turkish intervention, and it is possible that the relations of the Sheikh with the Turks may have been modified thereby. Lord Lansdowne is also aware that a question has arisen as to the status of an Arabian merchant of Koweit who is detained at Bushire in connection with the importation of arms by the steam-ship "Hathor." It is highly desirable to have certain information as to the real nationality of this merchant. For all these reasons, and in order that our interest in the affairs of Koweit may be accentuated by visits of the Consul-General from time to time, Lord George Hamilton proposes, with the approval of the Marquess of Lansdowne, to direct the Viceroy to send Colonel Kemball to Koweit, as previously suggested.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 80

Foreign Office to India Office

(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, November 21, 1900*

Sir,

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letters of the 19th and 20th instant, relative to the proposed visit of Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire to Koweit.

For the reasons stated in the second of your two letters above referred to, Lord Lansdowne agrees that it is desirable that Colonel Kemball should visit Koweit, and he concurs in Lord George Hamilton's proposal to instruct the Viceroy of India accordingly.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON

No. 81.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Telegraphic.) P *Foreign Office, November 22, 1900.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 19th instant relating to the recent seizure of arms and ammunition on board the British ship "Hathor" in Bushire, I have to inform you that, although Her Majesty's Government have promised their good offices to the Sheikh of Koweit, the district has never been formally placed under British protection. Her Majesty's Government cannot, therefore, claim natives of Koweit as British-protected persons, nor would such persons be justiciable by British Consular Tribunals in Persia. Should the Turkish claim be proved invalid, the man would presumably be subject to the Persian Tribunals.

It is undesirable that Her Majesty's Government should interfere to protect any subject of the Sheikh of Koweit, and no action is necessary until you are appealed to; you should, however, endeavour to ascertain what is the man's nationality, and whether the Sheikh wishes to resist the Turkish claim to jurisdiction over him or not.

No. 82.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 21st November, regarding Koweit affairs.

A copy has been sent to the Admiralty.

India Office, November 22, 1900.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *India Office, November 21, 1900.*

YOUR telegram of the 19th November, Koweit.

Kemball should proceed to Koweit as arranged, since the Sheikh was absent on his pleasure. He can now learn the result of the visit to Basrah, and ascertain more exactly the position both regarding Najd and the Turks. He can take the opportunity to verify the statements of the passenger who reported arrival by the "Hatter," or rather the question of nationality should be further ascertained.

No. 83.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 50.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 26, 1900.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 49 of the 16th instant, and to your telegrams Nos. 77, 78, and 79, of the 17th and 20th instant, respecting the proposed visit to the Amir of Nejd and the Sheikh of Koweit, I have to inform you that, although the crisis is over, it has been decided to send Colonel Kemball to Koweit in order to [illegible] position regarding Nejd and the Turks, and to [illegible] the Sheikh's visit to Basrah.

Colonel Kemball will also endeavour to ascertain the exact status of an Arab subject of Koweit, who is believed to be a Christian, and who was lately arrested by the Turkish Vice-Consul, and who has been arrested at Basrah for importing arms into Persia or a British [illegible].

No. 84.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 28.)

Sir, *India Office, November 27, 1900.*

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 21st November, inclosing the draft of a telegram which it was proposed to send to Colonel Kemball and which was despatched on the 22nd November.

I am to state that Lord George Hamilton concurs in the views expressed and the action taken by the Marquess of Lansdowne.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 85.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 28.)

Confidential.) *Admiralty, November 27, 1900.*

Sir,

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from the Commanding Officer of Her Majesty's ship "Redbreast" dated the 13th October last, relative to the movements of the French store-ship "Drôme" in the Persian Gulf.

A similar letter has been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. J. VAN SITTART NEALE.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Lieutenant-Commander Hill to Rear-Admiral Day H. Bosanquet.

"Redbreast," at Bushire, October 13, 1900.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the French store-ship "Drôme" left here yesterday for Koweit with the French Vice-Consul from Bagdad on board. It is the latter's intention to return here by dhow, and the ship has been promised to Bushire. Bahrein, Lenga, Bunder Abbas, Muscat, and [illegible] she expects her [illegible] for France.

2. The information regarding Koweit, which Her Britannic Majesty's Consul seems [illegible] received a few hours before she actually sailed; in [illegible] was only [illegible] before [illegible] this to period [illegible] it to you, the Admiralty, and the Senior Naval Officer Muscat, by telegraph.

3. If I had known about Koweit a few days previously, I should have deemed it advisable to have gone down the river, and been there before her, but under the circumstances, I thought it unwise to do so, as I could not get there first, and my arrival after her might be construed into a case of espionage.

4. The Consul, however, informed the Political Resident at Bushire in plenty of time for him, if he considered it necessary, to send the Royal Indian marine-ship "Lawrence."

5. During the "Drôme's" stay here I have had numerous opportunities of meeting Captain Martel, specially [illegible] the first few days of his stay his Consul had not arrived from [illegible] and Mr. [illegible] Her Britannic Majesty's Consul was able to render him some assistance by lending him his Dragoman to arrange his [illegible].

6. In course of conversation he informed me that on his passage from Bushire he boarded several dhows, and he then went on to talk about the dhow question. He frankly owned that he was convinced that the native craft take the opportunity of direct traffic under the French flag, but that of course they would never [illegible] French man-of-war. I then asked him what his opinion was [illegible] French man-of-war. He replied that it was his [illegible] as he felt proud to the [illegible] that arrangements should [illegible] Government [illegible] war [illegible] of [illegible] between the two Governments [illegible] by [illegible] their papers and satisfying themselves that they corresponded with the flag flown.

7. He [illegible] he would be [illegible] the ship to hail a dhow, and then send a boat [illegible] ask the [illegible] to be allowed to look at his papers. I [illegible] that this [illegible] proceeding in the presence of a man-of-war, but he [illegible] that on many occasions [illegible] necessary for a boat to board a dhow [illegible] ship, which [illegible] very risky [illegible] to go on board [illegible] except armed, and this might be construed by people who knew nothing about the circumstances into a case of armed interference.

The subject then dropped.

8. My opinion of the "Drôme's" visit to the Gulf is that the French Government, taking the opportunity of the arrangement made about landing coal at Muscat, has sent in command of her a most [illegible] officer (as any one who has had the pleasure of meeting Captain Martel will agree).

I believe he has been ordered to show the flag in all places in the Gulf, and to report on them and the dhow question. One important fact I elicited from him was that his views did not entirely coincide with those of the French Consul at Muscat, especially on the dhow question, and I would not be surprised to hear that one of the outcomes of his cruise will be the more frequent visits of French men-of-war to the Gulf than has hitherto been the case, giving out as the reason that dhows flying the French flag require constant supervision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARCUS B. HILL.

No. 86

Consul Shipley to Mr. de Bunsen.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 4.)

(No. 41. Secret.)

Sir, *Bussorah, October 31, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegram No. 48 of yesterday's date to the effect that Ibn Rashid, the Emir of Nejd, had, with a large following, suddenly appeared before Suk-es-Shuyukh, a small town in this vilayet, situated on the Euphrates at a distance of some two days and a-half by road from Bussorah, and had demanded from the Governor-General the expulsion of a certain Sadun Pasha of the Muntefik Arabs, with the restitution of the property raided by the latter.

According to his Excellency Mohsin Pasha, with whom I have had a long conversation on the above subject, the demands of Ibn Rashid, with whom he was in telegraphic correspondence through the Kaimakam of Suk-es-Shuyukh, were nothing but reasonable, as it was undoubtedly the fact that great loss, both in lives and property, had been inflicted by Sadun Pasha with his Bedouins on the Ibn Tusia, a tribe under the protection of the Emir. He had, therefore, at once given orders to the Mutessarif of Nasiri to arrest Sadun Pasha if possible, and to issue strict injunctions to the Muntefik Arabs in his jurisdiction that the latter was not to be afforded an asylum by them. Soldiers had further been dispatched to Nasiri to aid the Mutessarif in carrying out these orders, with the result that Sadun was now a fugitive among the tribes scattered along the marshes of the Euphrates. As regards the Emir himself he had, the Governor-General stated, professed himself satisfied on receiving these assurances, and had withdrawn, as reported in my telegram above referred to, to a place some six hours north-west of Nasiri. His Excellency further said that the Emir had throughout the whole affair carefully asserted that it was only justice that he was seeking, and that he had no intention of not rendering due obedience to his lawful suzerain the Sultan.

The above is the account given to me by his Excellency, but I should point out that my information from other sources leads me to believe that the situation was more serious than his Excellency wished to admit, and that if satisfaction had not been promised to the Emir he was fully prepared to exact it by force. His followers cannot have amounted to less than 10,000 men, and it is said that before starting he had made arrangements for a reserve of like number. The rapidity, moreover, of the Emir's movements took the Governor-General, I have reason to believe, completely by surprise, and if the former moved northwards on Sadun instead of eastwards on Abdurrahman-bin-Feyzal, who was equally concerned in the above raid, it was for reasons of his own with which his Excellency had little to do.

As I had the honour to report in my telegram, I am unable to say whether it is the intention of the Emir to move southwards on Koweit, for the usual consideration at this time of the year, viz., want of water, which would seriously embarrass the march of Turkish troops, would not prove so formidable an obstacle to Arabs under similar conditions. Present appearances, however, would seem to indicate that such is not the Emir's intention, for although, if the popular estimate is to be accepted, the resistance which could be offered by Mubarak would not seriously deter him from the undertaking, the fact of which the Emir is, of course, well aware of the direct relations in which the Sheikh, through his office of Kaimakam, stands towards the Turkish Government, must form an element in his calculations which he could not afford to neglect. It is further to be noted—and in this respect my information agrees with that supplied to me by his Excellency Mohsin Pasha—that the Emir, in his proceedings at Suk-es-Shuyukh, has hitherto scrupulously avoided any act which would bring him into direct conflict with the constituted authority of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY

No. 87

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 6.)

Sir, *India Office, December 5, 1900.*

WITH reference to my letter of the 20th November last, and your reply of the following day, on the subject of the proposed visit of Colonel Kemball to Koweit, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to forward, for Lord Lansdowne's information, a copy of telegrams which have passed between this Office [illegible] India.

In view of the reasons stated by Colonel Kemball, Lord George Hamilton proposes, with Lord Lansdowne's concurrence, to agree to the postponement for the present of the Resident's visit to Koweit.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 87.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *India Office, November 21, 1900.*

YOUR telegram of 19th November. Koweit [illegible] arranged, since the Sheikh was absent on his previous visit [illegible] result of the visit to Bussorah, and ascertain more exactly the position between Nejd and the Turks. He can take the opportunity to enquire precise status of the passenger who imported arms by the [illegible] question of nationality [illegible]

Inclosure 2 in No. 87.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) *November 26, 1900.*

YOUR telegram of 21st November, Koweit, communicated to Kemball, who suggests [illegible] of the visit because, although crisis is passed for the present, [illegible] Koweit, who might be unduly encouraged by Resident's visit now, in ship of war, to believe that he will be protected. For this reason and because of interest shown by Turkey in Koweit, Kemball thinks that the visit now undesirable, and possibly embarrassing to Mubarik. I agree. Do you concur?

No. 88

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 7, 1900.*

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 5th instant, relative to the proposed visit of the Resident at Bushire to Koweit.

In view of what is stated in the telegram from the Viceroy of India of the [illegible] proposal to agree to Colonel Kemball's visit to Koweit being postponed for the present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON

No. 89.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated 8th December, regarding the postponement of Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball's visit to Koweit.

India Office, December 10, 1900.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *India Office, December* 8, 1900.

YOUR telegrams of the 28th November and 6th December. Kemball's visit to Koweit may be postponed for the present.

No. 90.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 11.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in Government of India Foreign Secretary's letter, dated the 22nd November, respecting Koweit and Nejd.

Special attention is called to Colonel Kemball's letter to Government of India of the 3rd November.

A copy has been sent to the Admiralty.

India Office, December 10, 1900.

Inclosure 1 in No. 90.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Bushire, November* 14, 1900.

FOLLOWING telegram received from Bussorah:—

"Sheikh Koweit has effected junction with Sadun.

"One battalion and two guns have left here for Nameri, and considerable reinforcements have been ordered thither from Bagdad to intervene between two forces.

"Vali states that Amir has consented to return home, and that he will compel Sheikh Koweit to do the same.

"Sent to Constantinople."

Addressed Foreign with Viceroy; repeated Simla.

Inclosure 2 in No. 90.

Naval Commander-in-chief, East Indian Station, Trincomalee, to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *November* 15, 1900.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 10th November: Admiralty have informed me that Turkish transport "Hodeilah," with 1,050 troops, left Port Said yesterday for Bussorah, possibly in connection with matter reported. As a precautionary measure, I have given orders for Senior Naval Officer Persian Gulf to proceed Bushire [in] Her Majesty's ship "Redbreast" [and] remain Bussorah.

Inclosure 3 in No. 90.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Bushire, November* 3, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Government of India, that in accordance with the instructions conveyed to me in your Secret telegram, dated the 16th October, I proceeded to Koweit, where I arrived on the 20th idem.

Sheikh Mubarak was absent in the interior at a place called Jerah, distant, as I was given to understand, about a day's journey from Koweit. His eldest son, Sheikh Jabbar, who had been left at Koweit by his father, learning that I was on board the "Lawrence," came off to see me in the Sheikh's boat flying the Turkish flag.

2. So far as I was able to ascertain, the position of affairs is as follows.

Sheikh Mubarak being aware that Abdul Aziz-bin-Rashid, the Amir of Nejd, had espoused the cause of his enemy, the rebel Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, and his nephews, the sons of Muhammad-bin-Sabah and Jarrah, was not likely to neglect any opportunity which should arise, whereby the authority and influence of the Amir might be weakened. Such an opportunity was at hand in the person of Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal of the Saud dynasty, the former Rulers of Riadh, who were dispossessed by Muhammad-Ibn-Rashid, uncle of the present Amir, in 1886.

3. Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal had been living in Koweit under Sheikh Mubarak's protection for some years, and, it is said, was in receipt of monthly allowances both from Sheikh Mubarak and the Turkish Government.

In August last Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal is said to have received a letter from his adherents in Nejd, expressing their readiness to espouse his cause should he make a move to recover his lost authority. Abdul Rahman accordingly moved out of Koweit.

It appears that he soon gained some slight successes over certain divisions of the Shammar tribes owning allegiance to Abdul Aziz, and he then wrote to Sheikh Mubarak, asking him to send him reinforcements. His request was complied with, and, acting under Mubarak's directions, the Bedouin tribes owning his allegiance have assembled to support Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal.

It further appears that about the time of Abdul Rahman's departure from Koweit certain Monteifik and other Arab tribes occupying the country north of Koweit also took the opportunity of rising and pillaging the Amir's country. Whether they were instigated by Sheikh Mubarak is not clear.

4. My general impression, as the result of my visit to Koweit, is that Sheikh Mubarak and the tribes controlled by him are not likely to carry their operations far into Nejd territory, and he certainly will not do so if there is any likelihood of the Amir of Nejd marching against Koweit. I was given to understand that the authority of the Amir of Nejd was already considerably weakened, and not the least anxiety appeared to be felt in Koweit regarding Mubarak's ability to hold his own against any attack which might be made on him. What degree of success Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal is likely to attain I was not able to ascertain; but, as stated above, it is only natural to expect that Sheikh Mubarak will welcome any movement on his part which would result in the weakening of the Amir's power.

5. Sheikh Jabbar assured me that the operations which are at present being conducted by Sheikh Mubarak are not in the least likely to bring about any more active interference in Koweit affairs by the Turks, and, in my opinion, Sheikh Mubarak knows well enough what he is doing, and, so far as his present operations are concerned, is not likely to take any steps which would bring him into conflict with the Basrah authorities, with whom, moreover, it is probable that he has arrived at some understanding. I did not think it advisable to send a message to Sheikh Mubarak to come to Koweit to meet me. It is probable that it might have been inconvenient to him to leave his tribesmen, and he might have declined to come. In the course of my conversation, however, I explained to Sheikh Jabbar the anxiety of the Government of India that his father should not commit himself to a course of action which might have undesirable results, and I have no doubt that what I said will be repeated to Sheikh Mubarak.

6. After my return to Bushire on the 20th October, I received Mr. Shipley's telegram of that date, copy of which was also sent to you, in which he reported that the

Amir of Nejd had appeared suddenly before Suk-es-Sheiokh on the Euphrates. This movement of the Amir's was apparently not known in Koweit, and I cannot predict what effect it will have.

I think, however, that it would be premature at the present juncture to send a gun-boat to Koweit. It does not follow, so far as I can see, that the Amir will next march against Koweit, and it seems to me that the presence of Her Majesty's ships at Koweit might lead the Sheikh to think that he has the support of the British Government, and unduly encourage him in his pretensions. I do not know that we should be called upon to assist the Chief of Koweit against the Amir of Nejd, and, at any rate, he has not asked us for our assistance. Apparently he considers himself well able to hold his own. Should, however, any threatening move on the part of the Amir against Koweit result in any action by the Turks to protect Sheikh Mubarak, ample warning would be given from Bussorah; but as matters are at present, I do not see what would be the object of sending a ship of war to Koweit.

Inclosure 4 in No. 90.

Naval Commander-in-chief, East Indian Station, Trincomalee, to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *November* 16, 1900.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 15th November, I have, in accordance with directions received from Admiralty, directed "Cossack" to proceed immediately to Bushire to be at disposal of Government of India in conveying Agent to Koweit and for any further measures which may be necessary. "Racoon" has been ordered from Aden to Muscat. French Commodore in "Catinat" is at Muscat.

Inclosure 5 in No. 90.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Bushire, November* 17, 1900.

FOLLOWING telegram received from Bussorah:—

"*November* 16.—Arab crisis is passed; both sides are on their way home. Sheikh [of] Koweit will meet Vali to-morrow at the country house of Nakib, 30 miles from Bussorah; consider this as his promised visit. He has pro-Consul's [*sic*] men with him. Sending to Constantinople."

I have received your telegram from Viceroy's camp, dated yesterday, but I presume that visit to Koweit now unnecessary.

Inclosure 6 in No. 90.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Bushire, November* 20, 1900.

November 19.—I have heard from Bussorah to-day that Vali persuaded Mubarak to return to Bussorah with him. They were at the telegraph office yesterday several hours communicating with Constantinople. Mubarak left this morning safe for Koweit.

No. 91.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in Government of India Foreign Secretary's letter, dated the 15th November, regarding Koweit and Nejd.

It is requested that the manuscript portion of these papers, which is sent in original, may be returned to this Office when done with.

India Office, December 11, 1900.

Inclosure 1 in No. 91.

Consul Shipley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Bussorah, October* 29, 1900.

THE Amir of Nejd, with a large following, has appeared suddenly before Suk-es-Shoyukh on the Euphrates, and has demanded from the Vali the expulsion of Sadun Pasha of the Muntefik Arabs, with the restitution of the property raided by the latter. The Vali has agreed to this, and tells me that the Amir is withdrawing to a place six hours north-west of Nasiri, but is still in pursuit of Sadun.

I cannot say whether the Amir intends to move southward on Koweit, but it might be advisable that a gun-boat should be there to watch matters. The "Redbreast" is down the river, but I can communicate with it from to-morrow in three hours.

Sent to Constantinople and Bushire.

Inclosure 2 in No. 91.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Bushire, October* 30, 1900.

I HAVE returned from Koweit. Sheikh absent, but I saw his eldest son. Apparently no anxiety is felt in Koweit regarding possible attack to place by Amir of Nejd. It is very difficult to ascertain true state of affairs. Sheikh apparently has a large gathering of Arabs with him, but I understand he does not intend to proceed to extremes against Amir. My belief is that he will confine himself to raid upon tribe under Amir, his object being to weaken Amir's authority in self-defence. So far as Koweit is concerned, he is probably well able to hold his own, and he is not likely to take any steps which would bring himself into difficulties with Turkey.

I have received Shipley's telegram, but I think it would be premature to send gun-boat to Koweit. There is considerable risk of such action being misinterpreted and Sheikh being unduly encouraged. Amir's latest move as reported by Shipley apparently not known in Koweit, but I think we should have ample warning if Amir marched against Koweit.

Inclosure 3 in No. 91.

Government of India to Consul Shipley.

(Telegraphic.) *Viceroy's Camp, October* 31, 1900.

YOUR telegram, of the 29th October. Nejd.

If you think presence of gun-boat at Koweit necessary, you should send for it.

Inclosure 4 in No. 91.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Bushire, November* 9, 1900.

FOLLOWING telegram received from Bussorah:—

"Amir of Nejd has sent word that he will attack Koweit unless Sheikh is made to give him full satisfaction immediately. I am informed that he demands apology for raid, restitution of stolen property, recognition as suzerain, and justice for the nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit. Vali, instructed by Constantinople, yesterday sent son of the Nakib overland to Koweit to bring Sheikh to reason, and to-day sent the brother of the Nakib with the Bussorah agent of the Amir up the Euphrates to beg the Amir to return home and trust in the promises contained in the letters they bear from the Vali. Field-Marshal, Bagdad, telegraphed that he is sending two batteries and three battalions to reinforce troops of this province. I do not think that the attack on Koweit is probable, but it is possible; and I venture to suggest that it would be better to decide beforehand what our action should

be in this eventuality. General opinion here is that Koweit would be outmatched, though Sheikh himself professes complete confidence in his ability to resist attack. Above telegram sent to Constantinople."

Addressed to Foreign with Viceroy, and repeated to Simla.

Inclosure 5 in No. 91.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Bushire, November* 10, 1900

FOLLOWING telegram received from Bussorah:—

"Emissary sent by Vali could not find Sheikh of Koweit. Latter is said to be four days distant from Koweit with 3,000 men hoping to effect junction with Sadun. His men are rumoured to be disaffected. Amir has removed to Samava Bagdad Vilayat for commissariat reasons. Sultan has pardoned exiled Sheikh of Dora, who is with Amir, and has empowered Vali to settle crisis as he thinks best. Above sent to Constantinople."

Addressed to Foreign with Viceroy, and repeated to Simla.

No. 92.

Consul Wratislaw to Mr. de Bunsen.—(Received at Foreign Office, December 24.)

(No. 44. Confidential.)

Sir, *Bussorah, November* 22, 1900.

IN my telegram No. 50 of the 16th instant, I had the honour to report that the Arab crisis was at an end. Nothing, to my knowledge, has since occurred to modify this statement, though, with so much inflammable material still about, a conflagration is not yet beyond the bounds of possibility.

It is not entirely easy to apportion the blame for occurrences which have thrown Southern Arabia into a turmoil during the last three months, but I think on the whole there is little doubt that the ambition of Mubarek of Koweit is primarily answerable for them. With the obvious advantage in the matter of importing arms, which his position on the sea-coast affords, having the Vali of Bassorah in his pocket, and imagining that, in the event of defeat, Great Britain would not allow him to be entirely crushed, he appears to have thought that the time had come for disputing the hitherto unchallenged supremacy over the Sheikhs of Arabia, of Abdul Aziz-ibn-Reschid, the Emir of Nejd. It is equally true that the latter showed no hesitation in accepting the challenge, but the first provocation certainly came from Mubarek.

For some time past there has been living at, or in the neighbourhood of Koweit, an ex-Emir of Nejd, by name Abdurrahman-bin-Feysal, who was driven from his throne fifteen years ago by the predecessor of Abdul Aziz. Hostilities were begun by a raid on tribes under Nejd protection, executed by Abdurrahman, at the instigation, or, at least, with the connivance of Mubarek. This view is confirmed by the fact that Mubarek began to mobilize his forces prior to the exploit of Abdurrahman, and continued to do so in spite of the remonstrances of the Vali, conveyed to him through Seyid Thalib Pasha.

Almost simultaneously another raid on Abdul Aziz' people was made by Sadun, another friend of Mubarek's, and, to all appearance, as part of the latter's general plan of campaign. This Sadun Pasha (he has received from the Sultan a rank bearing the title of Pasha) is nephew of the late Nassir Pasha, formerly Sheikh of the Muntefik Arabs, to whose devotion to the Turkish cause was due the final submission of his tribes to the Sultan. He created the town of Nasriyé, and died Vali of Bassorah. It was Sadun's brother, Suleiman Bey, who wished to be taken under British protection, as reported in my despatch No. 54 of the 30th November, 1899.

Sadun himself, I regret to say, is a confirmed rogue, and exists mainly by robbery. His last raid on Abdul Aziz' tribes was a great success and resulted in considerable booty. Followed up by Abdul Aziz with a large force, and worsted in an encounter which, however, appears to have been only a petty skirmish, he retired with his men and most of his loot into Turkish territory.

Abdul Aziz, taking what was obviously the correct course, proceeded to the nearest telegraph office, at Suk-es-Shuyuk, and put himself into communication with the Vali

of Bussorah, to whom he complained of the misdeeds of Sadun, a Turkish subject, and demanded redress. This Mohsin Pasha promised with alacrity, but he does not seem to have taken any energetic steps to carry out his undertaking. Sadun was said at the time (probably as an excuse for not immediately capturing him) to have fled into the marshes, but from his subsequent movements it is evident that he cannot have retired to any very great distance from the desert path to Koweit. After some days fruitless waiting Abdul Aziz got impatient, and threatened that unless the Vali procured him immediate satisfaction he would proceed forthwith to Koweit and take it out of Mubarek, whom he regarded as the real author of the attacks made on him. I should mention that the Emir of Nejd had been joined (at what precise moment I am unable to say) by one of Mubarek's nephews and claimants to a share in his property, and by their uncle, Yussuf-el-Ibrahim, the exiled Sheikh of Dora.

It became known about this time (the first week in November) that Mubarek's warlike preparations were completed, and that he intended to march northwards to meet Abdul Aziz. Accordingly, Thalib Pasha was again dispatched in hot haste to hold him back, but found he had already started. At the same time, reinforcements were sent to the Turkish troops in the Muntefik district, both from Bussorah and Bagdad, and Seyid Ahmed Pasha was sent along with Ali-el-Bessam, the Emir's Bussorah Agent, to see Abdul Aziz, and do their best to induce him to go home and leave his grievances in the hands of the Turks. As something on account, they bore with them the Sultan's pardon for Yussuf-el-Ibrahim.

Sadun was now at Sakria, and Abdul Aziz near Samava, in the Vilayet of Bagdad. The forces of Mubarek and Sadun effected a junction without much difficulty, and once united were equal, if not slightly superior in number to the troops Abdul Aziz then had on the spot. This consideration, joined to the presence of a considerable Turkish force ready to intervene if necessary, lent additional weight to the Vali's arguments in favour of peace; for in Arab warfare it is customary to force on a battle only when in overwhelming numbers, and in this case the inferior side usually anticipates the fray by a timely retreat. Anyhow, both parties agreed to return home, the Emir making the first move. Mubarek was accompanied on his homeward journey by the Mutessarif of Muntefik, just to see him safe off the premises, and through this official, I believe, an interview was arranged between Mubarek and Mohsin Pasha. This took place at the Nakib's residence, near Zobeir, on the 17th instant, and during the course of it, Mohsin was able to persuade the Sheikh to return to Bussorah with him the same night. Next day the pair were for several hours at the telegraph office communicating with Constantinople, and early on the 19th Mubarek started again for Koweit.

I should add that at their interview outside the town, the Vali presented Mubarek with the insignia of the Mejidieh, 2nd Class, which the Sultan recently conferred on him as a reward for the tact and loyalty he displayed in the reception at Koweit of British and Russian men-of-war.

According to latest advices, the Arab levies on both sides were gradually dispersing, though I was mistaken in reporting in my telegram of 16th November that Mubarek had all his men with him near Zobeir. The bulk of his forces were far behind, under the command of his son, and some anxiety was felt at first lest they should make a treacherous attack on Abdul Aziz' men as they journeyed homeward.

The only person who has distinctly scored throughout these events is the Vali, Mohsin Pasha, who has triumphantly asserted the Sultan's authority over the two chief men in Arabia, and has averted an ugly crisis by a few promises which it will cost nothing to break. He has induced Mubarek to pay his promised visit to Bussorah, an event which, his Excellency informed me in a moment of expansion, he never hoped to bring off. And, unless he is much maligned, he has done all this at a considerable pecuniary profit to himself, the cost of which was defrayed by Mubarek and the relatives of Sadun.

Abdul Aziz' prestige cannot but suffer from his failure to exact vengeance from Mubarek and Sadun. Indeed, if he sits down tamely and pockets the affront, he can hardly hope to maintain his position as paramount Sheikh in Arabia. But this he is hardly likely to do, and further hostilities may be expected later on.

Mubarek has been to much expense and trouble in organizing and equipping a large army, and yet, at the bidding of the Vali, he has had to return to Koweit without striking a blow. By his visit here he has once more allowed the Turks to assert their suzerainty over Koweit, which, indeed, in his correspondence with the Valis and the Sultan since his accession to the Sheikhship, he has constantly admitted. Mohsin Pasha a day or two ago informed my Dragoman (evidently intending the statement to

he repeated to me) that while in Bussorah Mubarek had assured the Sultan that he was His Imperial Majesty's most faithful servant, and that it was solely in obedience to his orders that he had withdrawn his forces without attacking the Emir. He had further undertaken to cease coquetting with "foreign Powers."

Mubarek is undoubtedly a very able man, but he appears too much inclined to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 93.

Consul Wratislaw to Mr. de Bunsen.—(Received at Foreign Office, December 31.)

(No. 45. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, November 28, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 44 of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to report that letters have been received here from Sheikh Mubarek announcing his safe arrival at Koweit.

Major-General Mohammed Pasha Daghestanli has been sent from Bagdad to the Muntefik district to conduct the operations which are to be undertaken there with a view to hunting down Sadun Pasha. The Emir of Nejd appears to have been promised this as one of the conditions of his withdrawal, and I hear from a Nejd source that he has avowed his intention of resuming hostilities in three months' time if the Turks have not obtained satisfaction for him meanwhile both from Sadun and Mubarek. The latter, I understand, undertook while at Bussorah to sever his connection with Sadun.

I may mention that the British Government is popularly supposed to have promised its support to Mubarek in his troubles with Abdul Aziz, and that it has even made representations on his behalf to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.
